One of the great paradoxes of leadership is to lead by serving. Those two terms do not seem to fit together. Typically, when we think of leading others, we picture being out in front, steering, giving vision, planning, and strategizing. Sometimes we think of serving as a second-rate job given to someone who could not handle leadership. However, Jesus marvelously displayed for us the ultimate example of servant leadership—He led by serving.

Jesus

“"I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.” (John 6:38)

Many times we have sung the chorus that says, “Where He leads me I will follow.” But do we really wholeheartedly mean it? If God told us to change locations to a situation we knew would pay us less and work us harder, would we do it? Jesus did. Moses did. Paul did. Will we follow and serve Jesus regardless of the situation?

Your Spouse and Kids

“What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?” (Matthew 16:26)

If we serve the ministry to the extent that we lose our families, we lose. Part of true success in life is to have those who know you the best love you most. We need to serve our spouses and children on a continual basis and put their needs above the needs of the ministry. Our attitude should be, “My goal in life is to help make your life all it can be.”

The Leadership Over Us

“If we take a look at the life of Jesus, we see that everything He did was in service to others. He purposefully set out not to fulfill His own wishes and dreams but to fulfill the plan of the one who sent Him. As we serve with His mission as our goal, Jesus accomplishes His..."
Putting others ahead of ourselves is the key to serving. How do you know when you are being a good servant? You don’t mind when people treat you like one. As leaders, it should bring us joy when we have the opportunity to serve.

“Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.” (1 Corinthians 10:24)

Questions for Further Study—

1. How can you let your pastor know you are willing to be a servant toward the vision God has given him?

2. What is the “key” to serving?

3. What should your attitude be toward your spouse and children?

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