

Leading by Example: *Becoming Greater Leaders*

In my first official pastoral position out of college I learned more about what not to do as a pastor than what to do. Truth is we can learn a lot from the mistakes of others. My lead pastor was rude, unkempt, his children were undisciplined, he was always yelling at his wife and not long after we moved on to our next pastoral appointment he confessed that he was making romantic advances to a young girl in our youth group. He was a terrible example of commitment to Christ and as a pastoral leader. Still, I was determined to learn as much as I could if even from his mistakes. Fortunately, I had a great pastoral example in my next lead pastor. He was humble, loved God and people, had a great relationship with his wife and children and deeply respected by the church family.

In Matthew 23 we are introduced to the fifth competency of discipleship under Rabbi Jesus – *servant leadership*. Jesus contrasted his own servant leadership style to the pompous leadership example of the Pharisees and teachers of the law – the official spiritual leaders of his day. No one is perfect except Jesus, so no matter what leader we have been paired with we can still learn from them - if only what not to do.

Journey Together:

- 1). Apart from Jesus – who has been your most inspiring leader?
- 2). What are some important things you have learned from others?
- 3). What leadership trait of Jesus do you value most and why?

Road Map: Read Matthew 23

- 4). Jesus opens with several comments about the Pharisees and the Teachers of the law. How would you describe their leadership style? What are some of the most disturbing things that Jesus mentions here?
- 5). Jesus pronounces seven woes on the Pharisees and the Teachers of the law because of their bad example. What is significant about this pronouncement? What is a woe and what does it mean?

6). What word best defines each woe and how are they the opposite of servant leadership:

- Woe # One:
- Woe # Two:
- Woe # Three:
- Woe # Four:
- Woe # Five:
- Woe # Six:
- Woe # Seven:
- Woe # Eight:

7). What do we learn about Jesus leadership principles from this chapter? What does Jesus value most? What disturbs him most?

8). Which of these areas of servant leadership is most convicting for you and why? What leadership principle do you most want to develop and why?

Discipleship challenge: Jesus is challenging us to be great leaders. Practice the fifth competency of discipleship under Rabbi Jesus this week by working on your weakest area of servant leadership.

10). How can this group pray for you right now?

My Journey:

- 1). How has God been using *Journey* in your life this week to do *Great Things* for Him?
- 2). Which area of servant leadership have you been working on this week and what has been the greatest challenge for you?
- 3). How can this group pray for you today?