



“Who Is Going to L.E.A.D.?”

National Honor Society Induction Ceremony

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Introduction: We need leaders today. Dr. Luke recorded the things that Jesus began to both “do and teach” (**Acts 1:1**). He was a leader! Jesus is the ultimate model of a servant leader. If we will follow His example we help others. Today, I’m going to share four things we need to be the leaders today. We are going to pull those four concepts from a text in Mark (**Mark 10:35-45**). This is a text where the disciples of Jesus seem to be confused about what it means to be a true leader in the kingdom of God. What does Jesus tell them? God is looking for those who L.E.A.D. Let’s study together...

Discussion:

L = LISTEN... Be a good listener.

James and John clearly did not understand the leadership that would be required of them.

James 1:9 says, “*Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.*”

This James learned these things from his big brother, Jesus the Good Shepherd (**John 10:1-18**).

The Pharisees were not attentive to the needs of others (**Matthew 13:13-15, Matthew 23**).

James and John were going to fall into the same trap! Pay attention!

E = Excellence... Be focused on excellence.

James and John clearly did not understand the agony that would be required of them.

These disciples were headed to Jerusalem (**Mark 10:32-34**) where Jesus would be killed.

The “cup” was often used, in the Old Testament, as a symbol of suffering and punishment

(**Psalms 75:8, Isaiah 51:17-22, Jeremiah 25:15, Ezekiel 23:31-34**).

In other words... We have to try hard and do our best, if we want to be leaders like Jesus!

A = Available... Be available to help people.

James and John clearly did not understand the work that would be required of them.

It was not uncommon for them to encounter Samaritans (**Luke 9:54, John 4**), but where Jesus made Himself available, they wanted to burn cities to the ground!

We need to be there even if times are tough.

Jesus could have dismissed them, ignored them, or rebuked them.

Instead... what does Jesus do? He says ask away! This is good leadership! Be there for people.

D = Dedication... Be dedicated to what you are doing and those you are serving.

Jesus’ life could be summarized by the theme of servanthood... He serves.

His goal was to share the good news (**Luke 4:18-21**), to fish for men (**Luke 5:10**), to seek and save lost (**Luke 19:10**), to do and teach the will of God (**Acts 1:1**).

By His example, He has shown us how to align ourselves with the will of God.

The greatest example of that, of course, is **Matthew 26:36-46**, when He has an opportunity to walk away from the role He was to fulfill, but He surrendered to the will of God.

One thing we need to know about good leaders... is that they are humble enough to know they are a work in progress.

Conclusion: Go back to your Bible look at other leaders like Noah (the drunkard), Abraham (the liar), Jacob (the deceiver), Joseph (the dreamer), Moses (the tongue tied murderer), Rahab (the harlot), Samson (the womanizer), Ruth (the pagan), David (the adulterer), Jonah (the hypocrite), or Paul (the blasphemer). If God could use a little boy to defeat a little giant, I suppose God can use you. If God could use a young woman (Esther) to save a nation, I suppose God can use you. The truth is ANYONE can lead, but not EVERYONE should be leading... unless God leads them.

It is not ironic that James would be the first apostle to die and John would be the last. James was a faithful disciple, a coworker to the apostle Peter, and the first apostle to suffer martyrdom in **Acts 12**. John went on to serve as an elder of the church in Ephesus, mentored many great men of God, and wrote several books (**John, I John, II John, III John, Revelation**). The truth is... in **Mark 10** they weren't ready to lead. But Jesus led them, taught them, and trained them to be great leaders!

As the body of Christ, the kingdom of God, we need to put the needs of others above ourselves. We can't be blind to the fact that we need leaders. And, we can't be ignorant of the fact that we are all supposed to have a mind to work. Listen to these words about leadership:

*The world needs leaders...
who cannot be bought;
whose word is their promise;
who put character above wealth;
who possess opinions and a will;
who are larger than their vocations;
who do not hesitate to take chances;
who will not lose their individuality in a crowd;
who will be honest in small things as well as in great things;
who will make no compromise with wrong;
whose ambitions are not confined to their own selfish desires;
who will not say they do it "because everybody else does it";
who are true to their friends through good report and
evil report, in adversity as well as in prosperity;
who do not believe that shrewdness, cunning, and
hardheadedness are the best qualities for winning success;
who are not ashamed or afraid to stand for the truth
when it is unpopular, who can say no with emphasis,
although the rest of the world says yes.*

Paul Borthwick, Leading the Way, Navpress, 1989, pp. 19-20.

Do you need to take a leap of faith to be groomed by God for leadership? Do you need to submit to the leadership of our Lord? Are you willing to give the best you have for the kingdom of God? Leadership is just one of the pillars of the National Honor Society. Be a leader! And be like Jesus!