



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Leadership Series: (HANDLING AUTHORITY)

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Here is our next Bible study/devotional in the series on leadership. We develop these for our weekly 30 minute meetings and as a desk devotional for others who are not able to join us this time.

INTRODUCTION

How would you feel about having your leadership style critiqued by Jesus? He overheard two of his disciples arguing over which of them might have the highest rank when Jesus came into His Kingdom (Mark 9:33). Jesus explained that their thinking was upside down! The most humble servant will be exalted to the highest position in the Kingdom of God (Mathew 23:11-12). This resembles government service in a democracy. The higher rank or title you attain means accountability to more and more people.

A LEADER DOES NOT ABUSE AUTHORITY

*Luke 22:25-26 Jesus told them, "In this world the kings and great men lord it over their people, yet they are called 'friends of the people.' But among you it will be different. Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant."*¹

The Apostle Paul wrote his first letter to the Corinthians in an effort to correct their behavior. He was careful to characterize the rebuke as a father would address his own children: "Not to shame but to warn" (1 Corinthians 4:14). In Paul's second letter he referred to them as "fellow workers" (2 Corinthians 1:24). Paul did not want to spoil the relationship that he had built with the leadership in the Corinthian church. He chose to send a carefully worded letter rather than to visit and risk a personal clash. St. Augustine expressed this tenderness: "As severity is ready to punish the faults which it may discover, so charity is reluctant to discover the faults which it must punish."²

WARNING!

Have you seen leaders who have been in authority (or in office) so long that they take their people for granted? "A leader must remain gentle, compassionate, empathetic, and humble. If he becomes resentful, repressive, or ruthless in his treatment of people, he will lose his effectiveness as a leader."³ Remember how humble you were during your first term or first few weeks on the job? How do you remain gentle toward the people?

*Psalm 25:9-10 (The Lord) leads the humble in the right way and teaches them his will. With faithfulness and love he leads all who keep his covenant and obey his commands.*⁴

A PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, keep me tender toward others. Help me to be more like Jesus as I serve You and serve Your people Kansas. Guard my steps, guard my tongue, and keep my mind pure. If I must be stern with someone today, help me do it in a spirit of love. Mostly Lord, keep me close to You and teachable. I pray in Jesus' Name, Amen.

¹ The Holy Bible. New Living Translation. (Tyndale House). 2007.

² Philip Schaff, The Confessions and Letters of St. Augustine. #251.

³ John MacArthur, Called to Lead. (Thomas Nelson Inc.) p86.

⁴ The Holy Bible. Good News Translation. (American Bible Society). 1992

DEVOTIONAL DISCUSSION

LEADERSHIP/STAFF/GUESTS: WEDNESDAYS 12 NOON, GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM: 264 WEST