

Course Title: A CUT ABOVE

Goal of This Lesson: The purpose of this lesson is reinforce that it takes work and a calling to be an effective leader.

Note: This lesson contains important principles, especially for those who really want to understand biblical doctrine. These lessons go hand-in-hand with prayer and revelation.

BECOMING THE LEADER THAT I AM DESTINED TO BE

THE CHALLENGE: “And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: For they were fishers. And He saith unto them, Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.” (Matthew 4:18-19)

The first challenge to dynamic leadership is to unconditionally following Christ.

Four General Observations of Leaders:

- Good followers are good leaders
- Great followers are great leaders
- Faithful followers are faithful leaders
- Dynamic followers are dynamic leaders

LEADERS ARE MADE; NOT BORN

Leaders are made in God’s workshop (Ephesians 2:21-22).

Reading Assignments: Please Read the Following Passages

(Ephesians 2:10 NKJV) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

- For We Are His Workmanship

(Philippians 1:6 NKJV) being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete [it] until the day of Jesus Christ;

- Being Confident Of This Very Thing

(Philippians 2:13 NKJV) for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for [His] good pleasure.

- For It Is God Which Works In You

(Colossians 1:29 NKJV) To this [end] I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

- According To His Working, Which Works In Me Mightily

Leaders are birthed by other leaders.

- Abraham ~ Isaac
- Isaac ~ Jacob
- Elijah ~ Elisha
- Moses ~ Joshua

Leaders are continually reproducing themselves in others.

- Daniel ~ Three Hebrew Children
- Paul ~ Timothy and Titus
- Jesus ~ Disciples
- John ~ Polycarp

QUALITIES FOUND IN A LEADER

1. Leaders Are Anointed By God.

Reading Assignments: Please Read the Following Passages

(1 Samuel 16:1 NKJV) Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons."

(1 Samuel 16:13 NKJV) Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

2. Leaders Are Anointed By Men They Lead

Reading Assignments: Please Read the Following Passages

(2 Samuel 2:5 NKJV) So David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh Gilead, and said to them, "You [are] blessed of the LORD, for you have shown this kindness to your lord, to Saul, and have buried him.

4. Leaders Are Anointed By Their Peers.

Reading Assignment: Please Read the Following Passage

(2 Samuel 5:3 NKJV) Therefore all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD. And they anointed David king over Israel.

5. Leaders Always Have A Cause (David against Goliath)**6. Leaders are men and women of destiny** (Gideon, Deborah)**7. Leaders have a divine sense of mission** (Esther, Paul)

- a) John ~ Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled (John 3:29)
- b) Jesus ~ I must work the works of him that sent me (John 9:4)
- c) Jesus ~ To this end was I born, and for this cause (John 18:36)
- d) Paul ~ I have finished my course. (II Timothy 4:7)

“THERE ARE NO VICTORIES AT BARGAIN PRICES” (Dwight Eisenhower)

The great issues of life are decided by proponents or opponents,
never by the neutralist. The neutralists lose by default.

Better it is to support one side or the other
than to do nothing and let another
decide the issue for you,
perhaps in a way that
you may disapprove

“Live In Light Of Eternity” (Author Unknown)

I counted dollars, while God counted crosses
I counted gains, while He counted losses
I counted worth by things gained in store
He sized me up by the scars that I bore
I coveted honors and sought degrees
He wept as He counted the hours on my knees
I never knew, till one day by the grave
How vain are the things that we spend our life trying to save

7. Leaders Are Problem Solvers

Reading Assignment: Please Read the Following Passage

(1 Chronicles 12:32 KJV) And of the children of Issachar, [which were men] that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them [were] two hundred; and all their brethren [were] at their commandment.

(James 1:5 KJV) If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all [men] liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Problems Solvers Are:

- Always reviewing and looking for answers
- Asking questions, always aware of what is happening
- Looking for a better way of doing it

Statisticians are a dime a dozen but leaders are a rare jewel.

- **Leaders** are solution oriented
- **Losers** are problem oriented
- **Leaders** see possibilities
- **Losers** see the problems
- **Leaders** are learners
- **Losers** are bound by traditional status quo

“In Everything” (William Ward)

“In everything the good is there; our goal is to find it.

In every setback the victory is there; our task is to claim it.

In every person the best is there; our job is to recognize it.

In every situation the positive is there; our opportunity is to see it.

In every adversity the blessing is there; our adventure is to discover it.

In every problem the answer is there; our responsibility is to provide it.

In every crisis the reason is there, our challenge is to understand it.

Be different, be original, be unique, look for the good and praise it.”

8. Leaders Are Risk Takers.

Risk takers are the ones who stand to the forefront. These are men of days gone by, that have taken risks, and have paved the way for generations to come. Here are some of those trail blazers below:

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------|
| • Abraham Lincoln | • Thomas Edison | • David |
| • Walt Disney | • Abraham | • Moses |
| • Albert Einstein | • Jacob | • Peter |

It is far better to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, though checkered with failure. Than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much because they live in the grey twilight, that knows neither victory or defeat.

Your Greatest Hindrance As a Leader Will Be FEAR.

- Fear of Failure
- Fear of Rejection
- Fear of Inability
- Fear of Past Mistakes
- Fear of Public Opinion
- Fear of the Unknown

9. Leaders Are Visionaries.

Vision is the ability to see through God's eyes.

Reading Assignments: Please Read the Following Passages

(Joel 2:28 KJV) And it shall come to pass afterward, [that] I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

(Proverbs 29:18 KJV) Where [there is] no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy [is] he.

- Nehemiah's vision produced the rebuilt walls of Jerusalem
- Isaiah's vision produced a willingness to go
- Noah's vision produced the saving of his household
- Jesus vision produced the salvation of humanity

WHAT DOES YOUR VISION PRODUCE**"An Enemy"** (Edwin L. Sabin)

An enemy I had, whose face I stoutly strove to know
For hard he dogged my steps unseen, wherever I did go
My plans he balked, my aims he foiled, he blocked my onward way
When for some lofty goal had toiled, he grimly said to me nay
"Come forth!" I cried, "Lay bare thy guise! Thy wretched features I would see"
Yet always to my straining eyes, He dwelt in mystery
One night I seized him and held him fast, from him the veil did draw
I looked upon his face at last, and Imyself I saw

10. Leaders Are Self Disciplined**Reading Assignments:** Please Read the Following Passages

(Matthew 16:24 KJV) Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

(Luke 9:57 KJV) And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain [man] said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

- Jesus always challenged the casual commitment
- The first kingdom that you as a leader must conquer is the one called "Self"

Reading Assignments: Please Read the Following Passages

(Luke 9:62 KJV) And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

(Matthew 6:33 KJV) But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

There are two pains that all of us must conquer.

- Discipline: Discipline weighs ounces
- Regrets: Regrets weigh tons

(Author Unknown)

“There comes a time in every man’s life,
when he must decide whether he will be a
shadow of the past or an outline for the future.”

11. Leaders Have A Heart After God.**Reading Assignments:** Please Read the Following Passages

(Matthew 22:37 NKJV) Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

(Philippians 3:1-10 NKJV) Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you [is] not tedious, but for you [it is] safe. Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation! For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, [of] the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which [is] from the law, but that which [is] through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.

- Paul wanted to know him.

(2 Peter 2:5 NKJV) and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, [one of] eight [people], a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;

- Noah was a preacher of righteousness

(Isaiah 41:8 NKJV) "But you, Israel, [are] My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, The descendants of Abraham My friend.

- Abraham was called a friend of God.

12. Leaders Are Giant Killers.

Reading Assignments: Please Read the Following Passages

(Numbers 13:25-33 NKJV) And they returned from spying out the land after forty days. Now they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. Then they told him, and said: "We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this [is] its fruit. "Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land [are] strong; the cities [are] fortified [and] very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there. "The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan." Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it." But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they [are] stronger than we." And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies [is] a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it [are] men of [great] stature. "There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

(1 Samuel 17:40-49 NKJV) Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine. So the Philistine came, and began drawing near to David, and the man who bore the shield [went] before him. And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was [only] a youth, ruddy and good-looking.

So the Philistine said to David, "[Am] I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!" Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. "This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. "Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle [is] the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands." So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung [it] and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth.

(Esther 4:14 NKJV) "For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for [such] a time as this?"

- Esther was made for such a time as this. So is every leader
- Jesus withstood traditional religion
- Paul stood against the keepers of the law

CONCLUSION

It takes more than desire to make a leader. It takes time, commitment, effort, dedication, consecration, humility, knowledge, and above all else, being a servant.

This bi-vocational, on-the-job training opportunity is yours for the taking if you are willing to put your best foot forward, weather the storms, and when you've done all you can, take a stand for what's right in the sight of God. Then you too will have the makings of a cut above.

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**Assignment
WORKSHEET****Student Name:** _____
Print Full First Name Middle Initial Print Full Last Name**Church Name:** _____ **Pastor:** _____**Date:** _____***Take your time to review the lesson before you provide your answers.***

1. According to the lesson, what is the first challenge to dynamic leadership?

2. According to the lesson, what do leaders have a divine sense of?

3. According to the lesson, if any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God that gives to all men liberally. What verse is being referenced?

4. According to the lesson, what is your greatest hindrance as a leader?

5. According to the lesson, the first kingdom that you must conquer as a leader, is called what?

6. According to the lesson, what are the two pains that all of us must conquer?
 1. _____
 2. _____

7. Please fill in the blanks. According to the lesson, it takes more than d__s__r__ to make a _____.
_____.
8. According to the lesson, who was the quote by that stated 'better it is to support one side or the other than to do nothing and let another decide the issue for you'?
Please select the best answer below:
- A. Franklin D. Roosevelt C. General George Custer
B. Dwight Eisenhower D. Abraham Lincoln
9. According to the lesson, problem solvers are always reviewing and looking for problems, and avoiding solutions.
Please select the best answer: ☐ True ☐ False
10. According to the lesson, risk takers are the ones who _____ to the forefront.
Please select the best answer below:
- A. retreat
B. run
C. kneel
D. stand
11. Please fill in the blanks. What verse is quoted as saying "where there is no vision the _____ perish?"
- A. Proverbs 29:18
B. John 3:16
C. Joel 2:28
D. Luke 9:57
12. According to the lesson, Esther was made for such a time as this, Jesus withstood traditional religion, Paul stood against the keepers of the law.
Please select the best answer: ☐ True ☐ False

Congratulations on completing this lesson. While some lessons may seem harder than others, you must always study to show yourself approved unto God, and reveal to others, what God has given you.
