



THE JESUS WAY FOR
LEADERSHIP

The following document is a rough copy of Pastor Drost's sermon notes

from February 02nd, 2020

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✦ Reading from the Gospel according to **Matthew 20:25-28**

“Jesus called them (His disciples) to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the nations lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, shall be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, shall be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:25–28

✦ A few years ago, I was congratulating a police officer friend of mine who had just received a promotion to a top management position of Inspector. In our city police force you start out as Constable, Corporal, Sergeant, Staff Sergeant, Inspector, Deputy Chief and Chief. Now the moment you go from Staff Sergeant to Inspector you get to wear the white shirt instead of the dark blue and your badge goes from silver to brass (part of the top brass!). I’m congratulating this officer friend of mine and (jokingly) I said, “Where’s the white shirt?” He told me that he was having a hard time putting it on because he was concerned as to how his previous coworkers would react to him.

I shared with him this verse and urged him to look at it in a different light... **the Jesus way of leadership!**

It's a **serve first** approach rather than a **lead first** approach!

Which is about power and position. A servant-leader focuses primarily on the growth and well-being of the people under their care. While **lead first** leadership generally involves the exercise of power and authority by one at the “top of the pyramid.”

Servant leadership is different. The servant-leader puts the needs and well being of others FIRST and helps them develop and perform at their best. **IT'S THE UPSIDE-DOWN KINGDOM!**

“The rulers of the nations lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, shall be your servant.”

Servant LEADERSHIP! **This is the JESUS way for LEADERSHIP**

✦ In **John 13** there is this amazing story of Jesus... Let me read it!

“Jesus, knowing that God the Father had put all things under his authority, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; got up from the table, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. Then, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him... When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his outer clothes and returned to the table. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them.
“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am.”

Servant Leadership isn’t the absence of authority! Jesus had been given all authority from the Father.

The Bible teaches that all authority is granted (permitted, established, allowed) by God.

Illustration: When Jesus stood before Pilate, Pilate said to him...

“Don’t you realize I have authority either to free you or to crucify you?”

Ironic, isn’t it? Pilate standing in front of Jesus, the Son of God, the Word that spoke the world into existence, the Alpha and Omega, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords... the one who could turn the water into wine, walk on water, calm the storm and the sea, heal the sick, raise the dead, call legions of angels to His aid... thinking he was over Jesus, had authority over him! But he didn’t!



Jesus said, “You would have no authority over me if it were not given to you from above.” John 19:10–11

The Apostle Paul tells us in **Roman 13**...

“There is no authority except from God.” Romans 13:1a

God permits (allows) leaders to have authority.

Kings, Queens, Prime Ministers, Presidents, Chiefs, Mayors, Police Officers, Principals, Bishops, Pastors, Parents.

- We are to respect their position, their role of authority

“Render to all what is due them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if custom, then custom; if respect, then respect; if honour, then honour.” Romans 13:7

Illustration: I used to have a problem calling the Mayor “Your Worship”. I thought it was sacrilegious (Only God deserves worship). Until I understood what it means: The term comes from the old English “worthship” meaning that they are “worthy” of our respect because of their position. It has nothing to do with giving them worship as we do unto God. So last week I introduced our Mayor as “your worship Mike O’Brien” meaning, he is worthy of our respect as Mayor!

“Render to all what is due them... if custom, then custom; if respect, then respect; if honour, then honour.” Romans 13:7

We show them respect because of who God is, not because of who they are. The Apostle Paul says...

“Those in authority are God’s servants for your good.” Romans 13:4

Illustration: When I get stopped by a highway patrol officer, I show them respect because of the position they hold. When they are off duty, they are a regular citizen (maybe even a neighbour living on my street). But on duty, they are God’s authority to me.

Remember: Your attitude towards those in authority is directly related to your attitude towards God

So... God permits (allows, even calls) leaders to positions of authority.

AND they are going to give accounts to God as to how they USE IT or ABUSE IT.

That is why Jesus was teaching us **The JESUS WAY FOR leadership**

✚ **Back to our story...** after Jesus had washed their feet, He said to His disciples...

“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am.

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you”. (See John 13:1–17)

I’m not sure if we fully understand the full impact of this passage in today’s cultural context.

- I have often read this and tried placing myself in this story...
- When guests arrived from walking the dusty dry trails in sandals, the lowest servants washed their feet before they sat down at the table to eat.
- It was the unwanted job. It was humbling. The lowest job that was done in those days by servants.

If I were to take a basin, fill it with water, and start washing your feet and drying them with a towel **we could completely miss the whole point!** Jesus is talking about an attitude, a **servant attitude**, **servant FIRST leadership!** Paul opens Romans like this...

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle. Romans 1:1a (NIV)

Servant **FIRST!** Towel first – Title second! (A servant's attitude)

We have about 100 people in LEADERSHIP positions in our church:

- People leading all sorts of ministries (Kids, Students, Adults)
- We have a Staff of 8 full-time people including 4 pastors
- We have 9 people serving as Trustees. They are responsible for the legal and business affairs of SSC. They take care of the finances, budgets and policies for our church.
- We presently have 7 Elders (including myself and Pastor Wayne) that are responsible for the spiritual direction and oversight of SSC. **They are the Spiritual Authority of SSC**
- One of our Elders, Pastor Jim Lewis, was a full-time pastor at our church for many years until he retired. Since then he has been a faithful (servant) Elder. Lately he has found it a bit difficult to keep up to all meetings and responsibilities so he has taken on another role: Elder Emeritus (Any time he's available, he's welcome in our meetings and will be treated as a full Elder).
- For the past year we have been carefully & prayerfully looking at adding to our Elders list. **Today we are presenting four names to be added to our group of Elders: (Stand and keep standing!)**
 - **Ed Dimayacyac.** Ed has been a part of SSC for over 10 years. He served for 4 years on the Board of Trustees, has served as a Circle Group leader for several years, and is involved in our monthly Saturday prayer services. Ed has been married to Mae for 32 years and they have 5 children. He is presently the owner of Outreach Productions, an advertising agency and multi-media studio.
 - **Patricia Mead.** Patricia has been a part of SSC for close to 27 years. She has served extensively with the Creative Arts Ministry; Easter Passion plays, worship teams, and as a worship leader. Patricia has been married to Conrad for 40 years. They have 6 children and four grandchildren. Presently she works at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital in the food service department.
 - **Elaine Kaley.** Elaine has been a part of SSC since its inception over 37 years ago and attended Argyle Street Church from which SSC was born. She helped pioneer our Youth Ministry and served on the ministry staff as the Youth Director in the 1980s and again in the 1990s, in worship leading, and in our Easter Passion plays. Elaine has been married to Alden for 44 years. They have 2 children and 5 grandchildren. Presently Elaine has a private practice Christian counseling service, 'Hungry for Hope Professional Counselling Services'.
 - **Chad Billington.** Chad has been a part of SSC for 35 years. He served in establishing a young adults ministry, as a youth leader and worship leader in the late 1990s. Chad is married to Pastor Heidi Billington. They have 4 children. After getting his Masters in Divinity, Chad became an ordained Pastor on staff at SSC in 2005 overseeing several key initiatives including our Circles ministries.

Now: If you are in a leadership position at SSC, leading a ministry, a staff member, Pastor, Trustee, Elder I want you to stand as well. Here is what Jesus is telling us all: **If we want to be great leaders, we must FIRST be GREAT servants!**



Jesus is calling us today to Himself and saying, “whoever desires to become great among you, shall be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, shall be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:25–28

Servant FIRST! Lose the importance, reach for the TOWEL!

All of us...

“Have the same attitude that was in Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant.” Philippians 2:5–7

Dad... (You want to be a great dad?)

Lose the importance, reach for the TOWEL!

It's not about you winning the upper hand!

Mom...

At your job...

With each other as God's family...

In your neighbourhood...