



The Salvation Army

Jack McDowell School for Leadership Development
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“Shaping Leaders to Transform Their Worlds”

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Lesson 1: Lessons from the Word

The Big Idea:

“Let This Mind Be In You”

Philippians 2:5-11

Let the mind of the leader (who is Christ) be the leader of your mind.

T. Lynn Smith

Recently I was in a season of so much going on and so little internal power to pull from that I literally said: “I’m going to lose my mind!” Have you been there? I am sure there are many identifying with me right now. Metaphorically, it would truly be a blessing if we could lose our minds. Lose them, that is, as we continue to be transformed by replacing the dark and broken areas of our mind with the mind of Christ.

As we discuss Leadership Lessons from the Word, based on Philippians 2:5-11, please understand that when Paul speaks about having the mind of Christ, he isn’t encouraging us to have Christ’s intellect. He is encouraging us to have Christ’s attitude toward God’s will and toward people. As you consider Paul’s plea, ask yourself in what ways you possess (or not) the mind of Christ. There are places where you just might need to lose your mind!

◆ *My Notes* ◆

PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!

A Question to Consider:

Have you ever considered exactly what it means to have the mind of Christ?



1. The mind of Christ is a Submissive mind: (Philippians 2:5-6)

The mind of Christ is not a self-centered mind. It is not a stubborn mind. The mind of Christ is a mind of surrender. It is a mind of submission. Christ was submissive to the will of God the Father—not just when He felt like it, or agreed with it, or found it easy to go along with. In what ways do you find submission to God difficult? In what ways are you focused on submitting to what God is saying to you at this moment?

As leaders we must be submissive and willing to empty ourselves. Jesus is God. He had every right to demand service, yet He made himself of no reputation. He emptied Himself. He subjected Himself to God’s authority. He subjected Himself to God’s providence, and He took on the discipline of obedience. He emptied Himself to the point that all distractions were shut out! The only voice He allowed to penetrate His mind was the voice of the Father.

When we submit our mind to the will of the Father, distractions are limited. When distractions are limited we are better able to focus, use our time wisely and operate with competence and alignment. When our productivity is high our collective Kingdom assignments are advanced.

2. The mind of Christ is a mind of Humility: (Philippians 2:6-7)

The mind of Christ is not a self-exalting mind. It’s quite the opposite. The person who seeks to put themselves up on a platform for all to see is not a person that possesses the mind of Christ. In all that He did, Christ pointed people to God. Jesus humbled Himself. Instead of commanding and ruling in majesty, He allowed Himself to be humiliated and abused. Jesus left no doubt of His humility to mankind and His obedience to God. He never shunned His duty. He never bragged on himself. When we possess the mind of Christ, we display humility and are not braggadocios, no matter how accomplished we may be.

3. The mind of Christ is a mind of Service: (Philippians 2:8)

When we possess the mind of Christ we are willing to become servants. Jesus took on the form of a bondservant. He appeared as a servant. He performed the work of a servant. He was regarded as a servant. Jesus didn’t look after His own interests nor was He self-serving.

As true servants of Jesus Christ we must keep our self-serving desires in check, and be willing to serve others. It is vital that we understand, everything does not revolve around our wants and needs. Instead, we must acknowledge Christ’s example. He served everyone, and had no respecter of person. When our mind is submitted to the will of the Father, serving others will be our preference. Those who possess the mind of Christ are not only willing to serve, they serve as Christ did regardless of who the person is or what their status may be.

◆ My Notes ◆



4. The mind of Christ is a Sacrificial mind: (Philippians 2:9-11)

It is a mind that is willing to sacrifice no matter what the cost of the sacrifice may be. Remember, Jesus did not lose His life. He gave it purposefully. Consider the sacrifice of Christ. He made himself a sacrifice by dying on the cross for us. Though His sacrifice cost His life, He gave it willingly to prove His love for us. And because of God’s love for Him, He was exalted.

As leaders we must be willing to sacrifice everything for the sake of Christ: our time, our talent and resources. When our sacrifice is without restrictions, God gets the glory, and the name of Jesus is exalted. There is no name greater than the name of Jesus. Whatever we face, we can call His name knowing it is the password that helps us navigate through life. God also has highly exalted Him, giving Him a name above every name. At His name every knee shall bow. At His name every tongue confesses that Jesus is Lord.

A sacrificial mind is an intentional mind. Jesus was intentional about His sacrifice, we too must be intentional about releasing our worldly way of thinking and allow the mindset of Christ to lead us.

Create Leader/Leadership Goals & Encourage Action:

The leader/leadership goals should include activities that encourage members to have the mind of Christ. This includes our willingness to be submissive, be humble, be servants and to sacrifice. The goal is to have a Christ-like attitude toward doing God’s will and serving God’s people. This can be done individually or through a series of group activities for example:

- Set your time or assemble your team
- Create collective goals that you or the whole team can work towards
- Communicate how these individual assignments link to and support the overall leader/leadership goals of having the mind of Christ

Servant leaders recognize that healthy and honest communication is the glue that binds people together. It is the leader himself or herself who is a model for that - even through the smallest of gestures which is all important to developing the mind of Christ. Remember to “let the mind of the leader, be the leader of your mind”!

◆ *My Notes* ◆



A Thought to Ponder:

One of the ways Jesus maintained a submissive, humble, service and sacrificial mindset was that He set aside time to rest. Staying close to the Father was one of the ways that Jesus ensured that His mind would not be scattered or skewed. Consider this statement by Jaqueline Carter which says:

“Much like a good night’s sleep, taking regular breaks is seen by many leaders as a luxury. But in reality, taking breaks is an impactful, simple and pleasant way of increasing your focus and lengthening your attention span.”

Carter, J. (2018 p. 85). *The Mind of the Leader*. Harvard Business Review Press.

What are you doing to be intentional about rest and replenishment?

What Difference Would It Make:

In what way(s) do you strategically take on the mind of Christ in your everyday activities?

What practice(s) of humility have you personally put in place to help publicly and privately monitor your growth?

What system(s) of serving do you have in place to discuss and reinforce your Christ-like minded goals?

What practice(s) do you have in place to encourage personal sacrifice and intentional living on a daily basis?

Suggested Resources:

The Mind of the Leader
by Rasmus Hougaard and Jacqueline Carter
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/36598419-the-mind-of-the-leader>

Lead Like Jesus Revisited: Lessons From The Greatest Leadership Role Model Of All Times
by Ken Blanchard, Phil Hodges, and Phyllis Hendry
https://secure3.convio.net/lead/site/Ecommerce/411734741?VIEW_PRODUCT=true&product_id=1241&store_id=1101

◆ My Notes ◆