



Leadership Through Discipleship

Learning to Lead
by Living to Follow



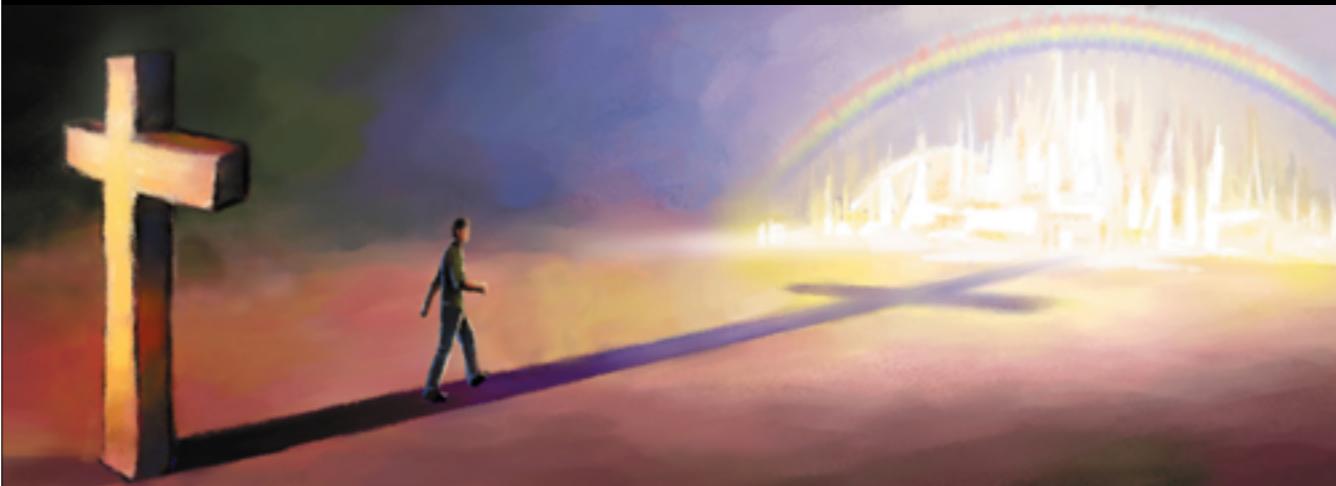
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In our culture an assertive person is perceived to be a leader. One who steps forward and says “follow me” is often the natural choice for leadership. Their confidence and take charge attitude causes others to fall in line and follow without question. It is immaterial that the self-appointed leader may not know where he is going, what matters is that someone acts like he knows where he’s going!

God doesn't call leaders,
He calls followers,
who become leaders!





Matthew 4:19 Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”



John 15:15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

17 These things I command you, that you love one another.

**God is more interested in
what He can do for you ...
than what you can do for
Him.**

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God is more interested in what He can do for you ... than what you can do for Him.

The Challenge

- And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called **Cephas**" (which is translated, A Stone).

—John 1:42

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Among the disciples, Peter is probably the most outstanding and outspoken of the disciples. He appears to be impetuous in his actions and quick to offer his opinions. From the Biblical record he seems to have a classic leadership temperament.

—However, before he can be a powerful leader he must learn submission.

Jesus saw his natural abilities. He also saw his innate weaknesses. Jesus called Peter based not on who he was, but on who he could become. The Lord saw the pent up potential in prospective disciples and challenged the followers to realize and release the power within through the process of change. From the first meeting of Jesus and Simon there was an **intentional training program** prepared for this would-be disciple. "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas," was the challenge Jesus presented. Until this encounter he was Simon. Jesus implied that he would become a rock, a solid leader in the emerging church.

—The names Cephas (from Aramaic) and Peter (from Greek) both mean "rock."

The Challenge

- Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons: Simon, to whom He gave the name Peter;

—Mark 3:14-16

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Mark 3:14 Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach,
15 and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons:
16 Simon, to whom He gave the name Peter;

Simon you shall be Peter

There is no explanation for the name change. Jesus knew both his name and his character. A name sometimes is synonymous with a person's identity. In order to change his character he was given a new name. In other words, you will not be the same man as before. I know what you are now, but this is what you will become – a rock!

He knows what you can become!

- He saw Simon and said,
“You can be a ‘rock!’”
- He saw Matthew and said,
“You can be honest.”
- He saw John and said,
“You can be a writer, you can explain the deity of the Son of God, you can compose a visionary journal.”
- He saw Luke the physician and said,
“You can become an evangelist and the first Church historian.”
- He saw Saul the persecutor and said,
“You can become Paul, an apostle to the Gentiles!”

Jesus sees beyond what you are and challenges to become what you can be! He saw the man he was and said you can be a rock. You can be bigger. You can be better.

The Applause

- When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."
- He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

—Matthew 16:13-15

Who do men say I am?
Who do you say that I am?

The Applause

- Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
- Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

—Matthew 16:16-17

The applause –

The Applause

- "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

—Matthew 16:13-15

The applause – Recognized and commended when his outspokenness was correct. Good job!

Upon this Rock —

Peter was recognized for his ability to lead. He was appointed as a spokesman, the one with authority to speak for Christ in His absence. Jesus was preparing leaders for the establishment of the church in the world.

The Rebuke

- From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.
- Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"

—Matthew 16:21-22

Perhaps Peter was feeling arrogant or overconfident in his newly granted position of leadership. In just a few verses Jesus revealed His plan to suffer and die in Jerusalem and to rise again in three days, Peter rebuked Jesus and said, "This shall not happen to You!"

The Rebuke

- But He turned and said to **Peter**, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."
- Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

—Matthew 16:23-24



It didn't take long to move beyond reveling in Christ's commendation to the rebuke of His correction. Three verses after ordaining the future leader of the church he is referred to an enemy of God, Satan! He was recognized for his outspoken revelation of Christ's identity and then rebuked for his outspoken effort to protect Jesus from death!

— Peter had to learn that true authority is always subject to direction from God.



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Andre the Giant

**True Authority comes
through Submission**



True Authority comes through learned Submission



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You can never be your own authority. In order to lead you must continue to follow. You must always be submitted to another. The principle of leadership Jesus taught Peter was submission. He learned it and he taught it.

—Peter said, “Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for ‘God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble’” (1 Peter 5:5).



"Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time" (1 Peter 5:6).
—Promotion comes from the Lord



"Follow me"

— This is the fulfillment of the commission; disciples go and teach and make disciples. The secret to effective leadership and the secret to the irresistible growth of the Kingdom of God and the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is to learn submission. That is something Christ can build His church upon!

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