



Leadership Through Discipleship

Learning to Lead
by Living to Follow

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"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

— John 13:34-35

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That is the Relationship of Discipleship



The Relationship of Discipleship

The Demonstration of Love

April 19, 2015
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The Sons of Thunder

- James the *son* of Zebedee and John the brother of James, to whom He gave the name Boanerges, that is, "Sons of Thunder"
— Mark 3:17

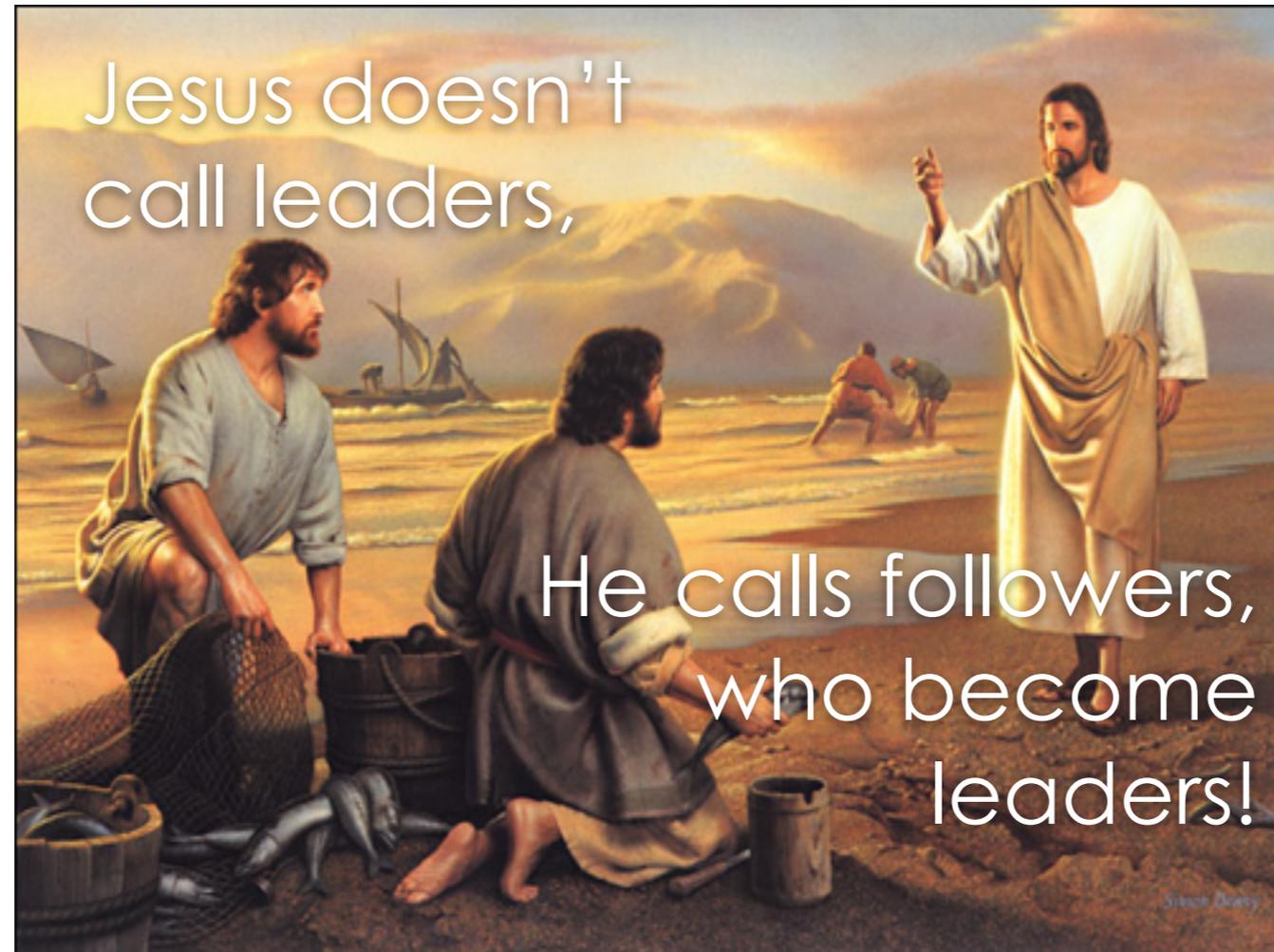
–John, A leader learns to love.

From a 'son of thunder' to a beloved disciple, the power of relationship.

NKJ Mark 3:17 James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James, to whom He gave the name Boanerges, that is, "Sons of Thunder";

Boanerges [bo-an-er-gees] = "sons of thunder" 1) a nickname given to James and John, the sons of Zebedee, by the Lord. The name seems to denote fiery and destructive zeal that may be likened to a thunder storm.

Much of our opinion of John is shaped by his later writing and his devotion to the Lord. What we often do not see is the man Jesus called from the fishing boat to "come follow me."



We often forget what we were before the Lord found us in our sin, saved us, and called us to be disciples. Or we excuse our lack of maturity and failure to change saying, "That's just the way I am."

Jesus does not call us just to be robotic followers. He does not mass produce disciples with mindless allegiance. Rather He calls us into a dynamic relationship. He treats us all as special individuals. Each of us is a unique design. His plan for your life is "one of a kind." He is not interested in blind followers but intelligent, passionate, and devoted disciples, developing and deciding day by day to grow in our relationship with Him.

There is a difference in being just a follower and truly being a disciple!

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

A Call to Become

- Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

—Matthew 4:21-22

From a fisherman to a fisher of men – the relationship that develops from a call challenges your priorities.

NKJ Matthew 4:18 And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.

19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

20 They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

(James & John)

21 Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them,

22 and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

The call changed their priorities, their occupation, and their passions. There was an immediate response to forsake all to follow Jesus!

Relationships develop over time. There was much more to learn. These men would change over the next three years into disciples, shaped by shared experiences with Jesus, the Messiah. Relationships take time.

A Relationship that Loves

- And when His disciples James and John saw *this*, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?"
- But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of."
- For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save *them*."

— Luke 9:54-56

A relationship that loves

A leader learns to love. From tough to tenderness. John's temperament changes from one who would "call down fire from heaven" to an inseparable friend staying close to Jesus, even "leaning on Jesus' bosom."

NKJ Luke 9:51 Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem,
52 and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him.
53 But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem.

— 54 And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?"

55 But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of."

56 "For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them." And they went to another village.

A Relationship that Loves



Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom
one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.
—John 13:23

Toward the end of Jesus' life and ministry, at the last supper, he revealed that he would be betrayed by one of His disciples. Here we find John "leaning on His breast."

NKJ John 13:23 Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.

24 Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke.

25 Then, leaning back on Jesus' breast, he said to Him, "Lord, who is it?"

Love one Another

- John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.
By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

This is the disciple that repeatedly reminds us to love one another to demonstrate our discipleship! The other disciples may have heard it but only John records it in his Gospel. John and Peter include this commandment in their epistles.

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Love one Another

- John 15:12-13 "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.
- John 15:17 "These things I command you, that you love one another.



John 15:12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

John 15:17 "These things I command you, that you love one another.

Love one Another

- 1 John 3:11 — For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,
- 1 John 3:23 — And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.
- 1 John 4:7 — Beloved, let us love one another, for **love** is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

11

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Love one Another

- 1 John 4:11-12 — Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us
- 2 John 1:5 — And now I plead with you, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another.

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