

## 50 Commands of Christ - 9 - (#35-37)

### 35. Lead by being a servant—*Matthew 20:26-28*

Whose style of leadership did Jesus condemn? Why?

Did Jesus really mean to say we must *always* be a servant leader? Aren't there some times, places, or situations when servant leadership is not appropriate and when we are exempt from this command?

Does Jesus expect us to be servant leaders completely on our own? *Jeremiah 29:11-14a*

In many organizations (business, government, church, etc.) the leadership model can often be summarized as, "it's all about me." The main motivations are self-promotion (pride) and self-protection (fear). How do you feel about such leaders?

In the type of "life role" leadership to which Jesus calls us, a leader influences others in a positive or negative way. Give some examples of this.

### 36. Make the church a house of prayer for all nations—*Mark 11:17*

From where did Jesus chase the money changers and merchants? What is the importance of the "temple area?" *Mark 11:15-16*

The prophet Isaiah promised foreigners (Gentiles) "joy in my house of prayer" if they met what conditions? *Isaiah 56:6-7, 1 Kings 8:41-43*

What does this command imply for us in our churches today?

### 37. Pray in faith—*Matthew 21:21-22, John 15:7*

Considering the verses above, if you are living a good Christian life and have memorized some scripture verses, why on earth can't you move mountains and why are your simplest prayers not answered? *Matthew 6:10, Matthew 26:39, Ephesians 5:17, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, 1 John 5:14*

There are five elements of a prayer that pleases God. They are: (remember ACTS) What could be added as a fifth element?

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### 35. Lead by being a servant

Matthew 20:26-28 - <sup>26</sup>Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup>and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— <sup>28</sup>just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Jeremiah 29:11-14a - <sup>11</sup>“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. <sup>12</sup>Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup>You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. <sup>14</sup>I will be found by you,” declares the Lord.

Examples of “life role” leadership (from the book, lead *Like Jesus* by Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges)

- Mother with a child at any time of day
- Friend who risks alienation to confront a moral failure
- A corporate executive who rejects offers of inside information to gain a competitive edge
- A U.S. Navy SEAL commander who orders his troops into harm's way to succeed in their mission
- A husband and wife who seek mutual agreement on day-to-day finances
- A middle school teacher who excites curiosity in the minds of her students
- A rehabilitation nurse who patiently handles the anger of a stroke victim
- A missionary doctor who refuses to leave his patients to avoid capture by enemy forces
- A local pastor who avoids teaching on controversial issues for fear of rejection
- A high school coach who fails to confront rule violations by his star player
- An adult who provides advice and guidance on living arrangements to his aging parent
- A terminally ill patient who demonstrates grace, confidence, courage, and calm to anxious loved ones
- A local government official who takes an unpopular political stand based on principle
- A dictator who hoards millions of dollars while his citizens are starving

Two things are evident in this list. First, each of these people is a leader because he or she is affecting or influencing others, either in a positive or negative way. This list reveals that some leadership actions are very specific in nature (a dictator hoarding millions), and others are more general (a mother with a child);

some are overt (an official taking an unpopular stand), and some are covert (a pastor avoiding teaching on a controversial issue). The actions of a leader that create influence are not always obvious to those being led. We also influence people who may not choose to follow, such as the executive who refused insider information.

Second, these leaders are involved in making a personal choice about how and to what end they will use their influence. It is the same choice we are all called to make when we exert influence on people: do we seek to serve or to be served? If your driving motivations are self-promotion and self-protection, you will use your influence with others to fulfill these needs. If your actions are driven by service and dedication to a cause or a relationship, then you will model and encourage these values in others.

### **36. Make the church a house of prayer—*Mark 11:17***

Mark 11:17 - And as he taught them, he said, “Is it not written: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations’? But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’ ”

Mark 11:15-16 - <sup>15</sup> On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple area and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, <sup>16</sup> and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts.

The “temple area” is also known as the court of the Gentiles, and was the only part of the temple where the Jews allowed the Gentiles to worship God and gather in prayer. “Buying and selling” refers to the sale of animals and birds required for temple sacrifices and purification. Mark also notes that the temple courts were being used as a shortcut between the Jerusalem city market and Mount of Olives to the east.

Isaiah 56:6-7 - <sup>6</sup> And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD

to serve him,

to love the name of the LORD,

and to worship him,

all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it

and who hold fast to my covenant-

<sup>7</sup> these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer.

Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations."

In 1 Kings 8:41-43, Solomon included this as part of his prayer dedicating the new temple: <sup>41</sup> “As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your name— <sup>42</sup> for men will hear of your great

name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm—when he comes and prays toward this temple, <sup>43</sup> then hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears your Name.”

**37. Pray in faith**—*Matthew 21:21-22*

Matthew 21:21-22 - <sup>21</sup> Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and it will be done. <sup>22</sup> If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”

Jesus was speaking to his disciples about he being the vine and they being the branches. He told them “apart from me, you can do nothing.” But he went on to say in John 15:7 - If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

Matthew 6:10 - your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 26:39 - Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

Ephesians 5:17 -Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - <sup>16</sup> Be joyful always; <sup>17</sup> pray continually; <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 John 5:14 - This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

Bible quotes are NIV unless otherwise noted.

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