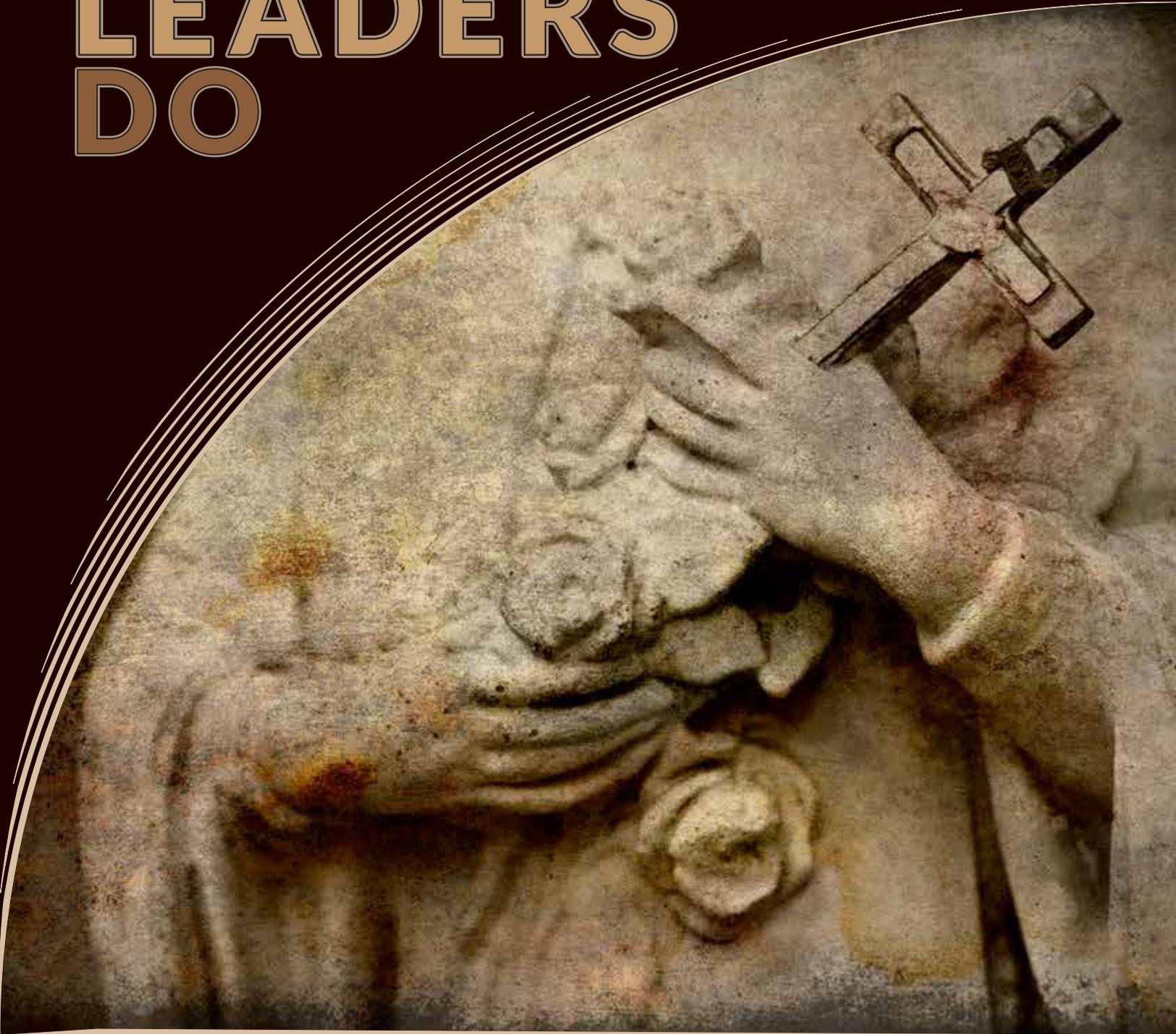
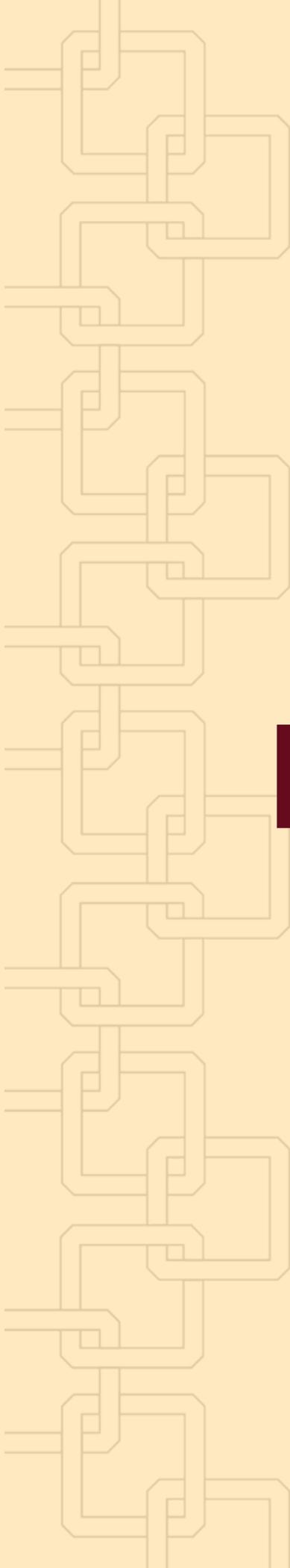


# FOUR THINGS KINGDOM LEADERS DO





# **4 Things Kingdom Leaders Do**

**By Manik Corea**

**A NAMS e-publication**

# Introduction

*“And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.” Matthew 15:14, ESV.*

A Jesus-shaped leader sees and seeks His Kingdom first. And he will call others to the same. John Piper has argued that ‘(t)he goal of spiritual leadership is to muster people to join God in living for God’s glory.’<sup>1</sup>

And to live this way, we must clearly see unhindered the divine vision, calling, purpose and claim He has for all of our lives.

All great leaders have had clear vision to see the reality and task they are called to. They are often gifted with the ability to look forward and further than those they led. Thus they call, motivate and challenge those they lead in a God-ordained direction.

Max DePree famously said: ‘The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality. The last is to say thank you. In between the two, the leader must become a servant and a debtor.’<sup>2</sup>

In this, DePree marries from a Christian perspective, leadership as servant-hood and stewardship (‘debtor’) to our Lord with the need to be visionary, reality-defining leaders who step forward with responsibility.

The balance is crucial, and as he says, grace and gratitude must also have the last word.

Hollywood and Bollywood’s portrayal of leaders by contrast typically ooze with rugged power, cunning, courage and gusto. They are anything but servants – they bark and bend others to their will and skill.

In the slick ego-tripping world of corporations, politics and celebrity cultures, leadership is similarly seen purely in terms of achievements, image, title, power and influence.

Christian leadership by contrast is, above all things, leadership for the sake of others, for the ultimate glory of God. It lays down in order to raise up.

I think the greatest advise I was ever given regarding leadership was a four-word reminder:

‘It’s not about you.’

Everything we do is for Jesus and to Him. It will make us other-centred as well, since disciples who love their Lord are called to love each other too (John 13:34,35).

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1 John Piper, Brothers, **We Are Not Professionals: A Plea to Pastors for Radical Ministry, e-version**, Chapter 3.

2 Max DePree, **Leadership is an Art** (New York:Dell, 1989), 11.

William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, once turned up unexpectedly to one of their early meetings. He was respectfully asked if he would share a word at the meeting.

So at the appropriate time, William Booth stood up on the pulpit, looked at the congregation and said, 'others'.

And then he sat down.

One word...but it is enough.

The church is called to be the most other-centred organization on earth. It exists solely for the glory and praise of her God (1 Peter 2:9-10) and for the mission of reaching people of every land and people with the only Gospel that saves by making disciples (Matthew 28:18; Acts 1:8; Acts 4:12). In all this, we are called to place the interests of others before ourselves (Philippians 2:3-4).

And this kind of Jesus-pleasing, other-centred lifestyle will be reflected most in the kind of leadership Jesus modeled and ultimately calls from those who lead His church (John 13:12-17; Matthew 20:24-28). Jesus gave explicit instructions to his disciples that those who lead must be servants of all (Mark 9:35).

Servants who lead.

To be servant leaders is no mean task. Kingdom leadership can be hard work. There are many challenges, temptations and distractions. We could easily lose sight of the glorious vision to which we have been called.

In this short e-book, I would like to propose 4 key tasks that all kingdom leaders should be about, if we are to help ourselves and others to seek God's kingdom first.

May God help as leaders to learn well from our Master; to see and follow Him alone and to hear and obey His voice always. So that on that last day, we may each hear those glorious words: 'Well done, you good and faithful servant.'

To Him be the glory.

# Chapter 1 - 4 Things Kingdom Leaders do – No.1

Leadership has been defined as ‘the ability of one person to influence others to follow his or her lead.’<sup>3</sup> The Christian leader is called to influence others, believer and unbeliever alike, towards the goal of living for Christ. Making Christ the greatest treasure and absolute centre of our lives, we seek to present him to others so that we can bring all (if possible) to maturity in Christ (Galatians 2:20; Philippians 1:21; 3:8-11; Colossians 1:27-29).

At the heart of Christian leadership is a call to sacrificial servant-hood. As leaders, we will see ourselves fundamentally as servants of God and stewards entrusted with the things of God. God alone is our Master. That defines the scope of our calling.

How is this godly influence exercised and worked out? In this short book, I want to look at 4 principle works that any leader in God’s kingdom must be committed to doing and to help others do the same, in order to know Christ, and to make Him known. These are:

1. See and share a godly vision of life
2. Be passionate about obeying, following and teaching the commands of God
3. Be ready to endure opposition and persecution for Christ
4. Raise other leaders after him.

In short: vision, passion, endurance and succession.

In this chapter, we will take a brief look at the first of the 4 things Kingdom leaders must do: Have godly vision.

Do you know what differentiates a great leader from mere followers?

Answer: A clear perspective!

A great leader sees better and further than his contemporaries, and is committed to leading them there. Jesus-shaped leaders are seeking to see God’s vision for all their life and then to pursue it with all their heart.

Isaiah 6 is often looked at and used as a passage about the ‘call of God’ - particularly the challenge of God’s missionary questions in verse 8: ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’

But Isaiah’s vision has a more to teach us than just the question of ‘going’. It is first and foremost, about the effect on Isaiah of his ‘seeing’ the Lord.

The first verse of Isaiah 6 tells us that a national tragedy had occurred – King Uzziah had died. He had been a good king for Israel, particular in the early days of his reign

(see 2 Chronicles 26). But now he was gone. However, God granted Isaiah to see something far greater – a vision of God on his throne in the temple.

What he saw and heard shook Isaiah to the core – met by the manifest glory and holiness of God, his utter sinfulness was made bare.

Isaiah saw himself in the light of God, and felt utterly unworthy. He cried ‘woe is me.’

In our celebrity culture today, many people seem to be crying the opposite – ‘Wow is me!’ But right vision of God will always result in clarity of who we are in truth. It is the need of the hour.

Having confessed and been cleansed by an act of grace (vs 5-7), Isaiah is then consecrated for representative mission by God, for God (vs 8-9). The process is clear – vision leads to conviction, confession, cleansing, and finally consecration.

I am certain that Isaiah’s vision of God branded itself on his consciousness and no doubt influenced his prophetic ministry from then on. We need similarly to see and encounter God often in our lives. As Edmund Chan, the respected Singapore pastor has said, ‘The greatest need of leadership is a fresh vision of God coming out of a fresh encounter with God.’

A godly leader is one who sees and seeks God for who He is - the author, controller and director of our lives. We live out His vision for ourselves and those He gives us to lead. ‘God is not the supporting actor in our stories; we have bit parts in his.’<sup>4</sup>

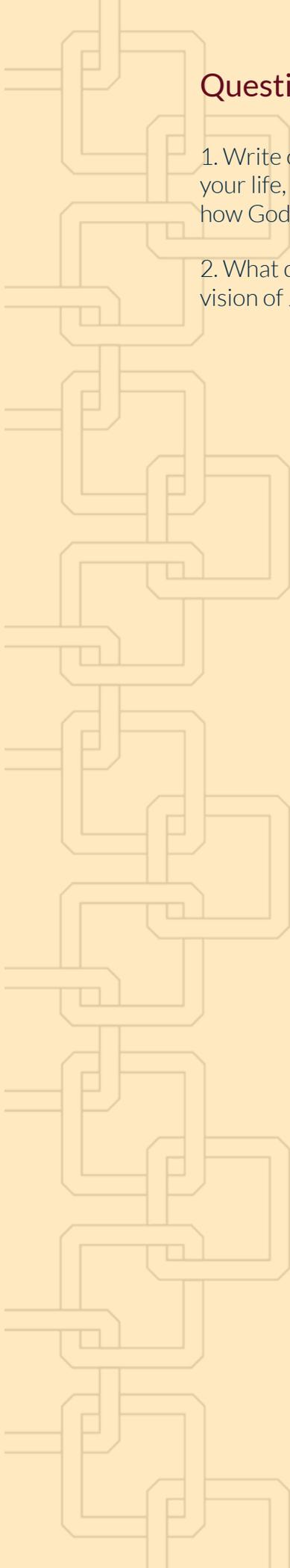
Three times in Acts, we hear Paul relating the vision and call of his Damascus Road arrest by the Risen Christ.<sup>5</sup> It shaped henceforth the absolute direction and content of his life, such that at his trial before King Agrippa, he was able to declare that ‘I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared....that they should repent and turn to God.’ (Acts 26:19-20).

What is God’s vision for your life? Your family? Your ministry? What is your vision for this day he has given you? Godly leadership will seek to follow and fulfill God’s vision over and above every other competing and compelling sight.

Seeing and following God’s vision that he gives is ultimately not something pursued in isolation from others. You will seek the counsel, prayers, support and ultimate accountability to others in Christ and over you in the Lord, to help you keep on track. We will need all the help he provides.

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4 Kevin J. Vanhoozer “**Letter to an Aspiring Theologian: How to Speak of God Truly.**”, Page 31. Accessible at [www.firstthings.com/article/2018/08/letter-to-an-aspiring-theologian](http://www.firstthings.com/article/2018/08/letter-to-an-aspiring-theologian)  
5 Acts 9:3-8; 22:6-11; 26:12-19



## Questions for Reflection/Discussion:

1. Write out (and share, if you are with others) in a sentence what at this point in your life, is the mission and vision God has given you to be and do. Can you identify how God had prepared you in the past for this particular calling and vision?
2. What does Hebrews 12:1-2 tell us is involved with having and keeping a right vision of Jesus? How can we help each other fix our eyes on Jesus?

## Chapter 2 - 4 Things Kingdom Leaders do – No. 2

In the last chapter, we saw that the first key task a Jesus-pleasing leader must consistently do is to seek and pursue a godly vision for his or her life and those he is a leader to.

There are important practical steps for leaders in communicating godly vision to those they lead – i.e. capturing, concretizing and casting the vision in a way that calls everyone in the direction God intends.

But the most crucial and critical piece in fulfilling godly vision is its practice. We are called to walk by faith. ‘Walking’ is of course, a doing word. This is our second principle work of kingdom leadership: active obedience to God’s command.

All true disciples, like Jesus, will seek to do the will of the Father.<sup>6</sup> This may seem commonsensical, but it is amazing how easily, when taking the reins of leadership and responsibility, we then find a host of other competing demands. Leadership can easily be divorced from discipleship.

Now the tasks, burdens, responsibilities and challenges of leadership are many. The Apostle Paul told in his letter of the heavy burden of leadership that he carried and the loneliness it sometimes entailed (2 Corinthians 11:28-29; Galatians 4:19; 2 Timothy 1:15).

But there are temptations too. I was taught that every leader must beware of the 3 ‘G’s – i.e. Girls (or ‘Guys’ for the ladies), Gold and Glory

We are tempted to think leadership is a matter of titles, remuneration, authority, talents or creative abilities. We easily lose sight of Jesus in the egoistical exhilaration of having people who look up and listen to you. Or people may start to undermine and criticize our leadership and we become reactive or crowd-pleasing.

So, how can a leader keep his way pure?

Three things are needful:

**1. Stay fixed and focused on Jesus.** Hebrews 12:1-2 is a reminder to keep our eyes firmly on our Lord, who sought the joy of godly obedience while enduring the cross. We are called to throw aside every encumbrance in pursuit of our Lord’s pleasure and glory. Our work of faith, first and foremost, is to trust and obey Jesus and find joy (John 6:29). We are to become like him in every way (Matthew 10:24,25).

**2. Order your personal life.** In NAMS, all Companions vow to God to keep the personal holy habits of daily abiding in God’s word and prayer, giving towards global mission, making disciples and retreating 4 times a year with Christ.<sup>7</sup> These should be minimal for any serious follower of Jesus. But the onus is on us leaders as God’s fellow workers, to really be steeped in discipling and leading ourselves from the

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<sup>6</sup> Matthew 7:21; Mark 3:35; Luke 6:46; John 4:24, 6:38-40, 7:17.

<sup>7</sup> See the NAMS Rule of Life at <https://www.namsnetwork.com/assets/namsrule.pdf>

inside out. Start where you are.

**3. Be accountable.** We who are 'born-again' are born into a family. A great cloud of witnesses, Hebrews 12:1 tells us, is watching. Therefore, we can lay aside the entanglements of sin with each other's support, counsel, prayers and watch. A well trained leader will answer to those over him in the Lord.

Ultimately, such a walk will demand consistency. John Maxwell said, "Leadership develops daily, not in a day."<sup>8</sup> Not least Jesus-shaped leadership. It is only by faithful obedience to Christ' commands that we can effectively help others to obey.

Jon Shuler, NAMS founder and spiritual father to me and many, often reminds me that we can only lead people to where we already are.

We are not called simply to instruct people like professors or bark orders like drill sergeants. We are call to lead people on by journeying with and ahead of them. As has been said, "A boss says 'go'. A leader says 'let's go.'"

The tragedy in our churches is that they are full of Christians who know what God wants and may even sing lustily about it at worship services. But God requires more than assent or even decision. The tragedy of today's evangelical Christianity may well be calling people to profession, but not to obedience.

Most already know more than they choose to practice. When all is said and done in God's kingdom, more will have been found to be said than done.

But love for Christ is proved by our obedience (John 14:15). A Christ-formed leader will therefore be a 'doer' of the word, not merely parroting that word to others (James 1:22).

What will it take to ensure this is passionately the case in your own leadership call?

### Questions for Reflection/Discussion:

1. If you knew Jesus was coming back tomorrow, what remaining things would you need to do today to make sure you have obeyed all He commands?
2. Read Matthew 7:24-27. What differentiates the two groups of people in Jesus' story. Note that their experience and circumstances were the same, but the outcome of their actions were different. What needs to change in your life so that you become as one who hears Jesus words and practices (i.e. obeys) them?

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<sup>8</sup> John Maxwell, subtitle to chapter 3 title, 'The Law of Process' in *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership* (HarperCollins Leadership; Revised, 2007).

## Chapter 3 - Things Kingdom Leaders Do – No. 3

We have already looked at 2 important tasks that godly leaders must be devoted to: visionary leadership and obedient action. The third task is persevering and growing in the midst of opposition.

If there's one thing that is guaranteed of godly and visionary leaders, it is that they will be attacked, complained about, spoken against, criticized unjustly and sometimes wholly despised. Thankfully, not usually all at once!

Leadership of God's people can be challenging – just ask Moses (Numbers 11:11-12). A leader is called to walk ahead of others – which also means becoming a walking target for those behind you.

Furthermore, we know and expect opposition from the world we live in, which in our day is increasingly antagonistic and downright hostile to Christians, if not already persecuting. We can't say we have not been warned, given Jesus' words in John 15:18, 20:

*"If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first.....Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you." (NLT).*

How should we then lead as Jesus-called leaders in this day and age? We must persevere in doing God's will, despite the challenges outside and inside the church. What matters most is that we please God over man, to whom we are ultimately accountable (Acts 4:19-20; Galatians 1:10; Hebrews 13:17).

But let us also realise we are all yet imperfect leaders called to lead imperfect people! We see things from partial perspectives. We judge from flawed experience or prejudiced attitudes that can blind us. We may easily take offence or react to personalities, behaviour and viewpoints that trigger unsavory responses. We cannot therefore take ourselves too seriously.

There is an anecdotal story of South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu who was met on a narrow path by a Caucasian man walking in the opposite direction. The man pushed forward, glared at Tutu and said, 'I don't make way for gorillas.' At which Tutu stepped aside, and retorted, 'Ah, yes, but I do.'

Humour aside, Kingdom-leaders must grow in grace to deal with (sometimes unjust) criticism and to endure opposition. Here are 2 things I have learnt through much struggle, that has helped me deal with and grow from opposition and criticism:

1. When criticized, directly or indirectly, seek God's help not to immediately respond with commensurate anger or frustration or to defend oneself.

The fruit of the Spirit includes gentleness and self-control. We are instructed to learn to be slow to speak and to be angry (James 1:19).

The Proverbs are full of godly counsel regarding our reactions to what others do

and say to us. Proverbs 29:11 says, “A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control” (see also Proverbs 15:1; 17:27). Reflect before you speak. Let silence and prayer become your default first reaction.

## 2 Seek the counsel and prayers of others

Leaders who try to manage criticism and opposition on their own usually end up regretting the things they do and say. I write from personal experience. I am proud and strong-willed in that way, and so it takes a lot for me to seek and ask for advice, counsel and help. But we so need the wisdom of the community of other disciples, and the readiness to receive wise instruction.

I am blessed with great counselors. My wife often speaks home-truths to me. I have had (and still do) wonderful mentors and peers who help me to see my faults and to help me be gracious in response when not in the wrong.

One lesson I have been slow to learn, is to hear out the criticism or challenge, and to consider carefully if there could be truth that I need to hear. A great suggestion I recently heard is, when criticized, to go to a trust-worthy friend, and ask this question: “Someone said this about me. Do you see this as well? Is there something to this?”

Hateful critics will seek to tear down, but godly leaders seek to build up and be peace-makers. There is no reason Jesus gives us for hurling stones back or to give as good as we get. ‘Bless, do not curse’ (Romans 12:14 and Matthew 5:44).

Pray, seek counsel, act in humility. In all things, flee to Jesus and ultimately, learn of Him (Hebrews 12:3-4).

## **Question for Reflection/Discussion:**

1. Ask God to help you reflect and think of your reactions in the past to criticisms or hurtful words you heard spoken to or about you. If you still harbour any bitterness or anger towards those who were against you, ask God to help you obey his command to forgive them. Speak out your decision before God to forgive them, or write it down. If you are doing this in a group discussion, it might be good to share this confidentially in pairs, and to pray for each other that God may truly grant us repentance, remove any unforgiveness we still hold and to resolve before him to forgive them unconditionally and continually.

2. Read James 1:19-20. Discuss or reflect on the challenge of these words, and then ask God to help us obey and practice.

## Chapter 4 - 4 Things Kingdom Leaders do – No. 4

The fourth and final task that leaders as under shepherds of the Lord must undertake if they are to prove faithful is: raise successors. It has been said, 'A leader without a successor is not successful.' The point of Kingdom leadership is to raise more leaders, not increase our following!

Lieutenant Colonel Harold 'Hal' Moore Jr. was a US officer and war hero in the Vietnam War. The book and movie, 'We were Soldiers Once' were based on his experiences in war. There is a scene in the movies where Moore's character is training a squad of soldiers. The squad leader is declared 'killed' in the exercise. 'You are dead,' said Moore. 'Now, who do you have ready to take your place?'

In battle, as well as in life of the Kingdom of God, if we don't prepare others to take our place, when we do leave (suddenly or planned) the area of our influence, we will put those who have looked to us for leadership at risk, by unwittingly creating a leadership vacuum.

Strong and gifted leaders, in the midst of their success or influence, can easily – and typically gradually - lose sight of the Lord who called them. We see that happen in the Scriptures, with kings like Saul, Solomon and Joash, who all begun well but ended poorly. They ended up compromising their loyalty to God, rejecting God's word and trying to cling on to power. They cared less about raising up godly leadership after them, then in keeping their name and fame alive.

Through the Scriptures, the lack of godly leadership succession is always a recipe for disaster. This is seen clearest in the aftermath of Joshua, who having led Israel into the conquest of the Promise Land, apparently failed to raise a successor after him, like Moses has done with him.

'In those days, there was no king in Israel.' The book of Judges contains this common refrain about this lack of long-term spiritual leadership after Joshua (Judges 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25). In Judges 17:6 and 21:25 (which is the last line of the book), the added phrase 'Everyone did what was right in his own eyes' shows that the absence of godly leadership left the people divided and prone to fall away easily from loyalty to God and the guidance from the covenant He gave them through Moses.

Every time, a judge (a divinely-appointed leader) arose in Israel in the book of Judges, he then failed to raise-up a leader after him. We see in Judges that a lack of godly leadership succession results in all manner of spiritual dystopia and anarchy.

Jesus on the other hand, put leadership development at the core of his modus operandi for the spreading of his Kingdom rule to all nations. He called 12 disciples and designated them 'Apostles' – the new leaders of his Church and Kingdom movement.

Jesus was already modeling for them the need to raise and release leaders for Kingdom purposes throughout the world. Apostolic leadership was never an end in itself – it was always about preparing others for works of service and maturity

(Ephesians 4:11-16). Succession of leadership and leadership development are part of our call, paving the way for many other men and women to find their kingdom assignments.

Kingdom leadership therefore will resemble the Sea of Galilee more than the Dead Sea. The Sea of Galilee is full of life because water from Mount Hermon flows into it and then out of it to become the Jordan River. Fish and people alike thrive in and around it. The Dead Sea on the other hand is aptly named for the precipitous amount of salt in its water content that is toxic to life, partly because there is no outflow of waters from it. It only receives but never gives.

If we are to please Jesus as leaders, we would be committed like him to raise-up new leaders after us who desire to find and fulfill God's plan and call for their lives. Moses had his Joshua, Paul had his Timothy, Elijah had his Elisha.

Who do you have coming after you?

### **Questions for Reflection/Discussion:**

1. Who raised you up as a leader or influenced you greatly? Reflect (and share) one or two aspects of his/her life, ministry or example taught you the most.
2. Read 1 Peter 5:1-3. What does Peter encourage elders to do in this passage, and what does he say will motivate us most to 'be examples to the flock'?

## Conclusion

There are without a doubt many things that a servant leader of Jesus is called to do in order to prove a 'good and faithful' servant. This short book is an attempt to briefly highlight 4 key tasks, but there are many others that could be highlighted.

However, it is clear in Scriptures that there are certain fundamental things Jesus expects us to attend to. Ultimately, we are seeking to serve and build others up, so that like us, they may follow Christ. This is the apostolic pattern of leadership which is always founded on disciple-making.<sup>9</sup>

We are called and charged under Christ to be and raise up disciples and leaders who have a clear vision of His call on their lives, are passionately obedient, preserving in their service and stewardship of their gifts and resources despite opposition, and who raise up others beside and behind them who do likewise.

Thankfully, we are not called to walk this journey alone. The Scriptures are a rich resource and guide; the Holy Spirit anoints, instructs and leads us, and we have the counsel of the saints and the fellowship of each other for comfort, correction and clarification.

God's Word continually speaks and instructs us in all these matters. We need to draw wisdom and insight from Scripture specifically with regards to keeping His way and will for us in Christ foremost before us. Such as in the issue of succession of leadership.

I have therefore in the Appendix below, highlighted 3 principles from Scripture, from the example of Moses' preparation of Joshua to succeed him, as an encouragement for us in the task of nurturing other leaders. I pray this will at the least encourage us to seek to do the same.

# Appendix - How to Raise Up Leaders After You

“If you think you’re leading and no one is following you, then you’re only taking a walk.” So goes an old folk saying.

If leadership as defined by Jesus as the art of modeling obedience to Him and serving, sharing with and influencing others so that they are led to do the same<sup>10</sup>, then biblical leadership implicitly affirms the need to raise up other leaders for the work and ministries of the Kingdom of God.

NAMS has entered a season of transition as leadership moves from our founder and Servant General Jon Shuler to a succession team of leaders with various roles and levels of responsibility.

I remember one morning a few years ago when we first began the process of praying and talking about this. Jon, along with another NAMS leader and I were contemplating a few passages in the Pentateuch that described or inferred how Moses, the leader of the people of Israel in their wilderness journeys, was already preparing Joshua, his young aide, to succeed him way in advance. We looked in particular at three passages that illustrated succession preparation in action. Here are highlights from the lessons we drew from these passages:

## 1. Exodus 17:8-15 – Encourage them to trust God to defeat the enemy of their soul

This passage records the first recorded battle that Israel ever fought as a nation. Moses was on the mountain with Aaron and Hur. It was Joshua, Moses’ assistant, who was leading the fight on the ground – and God gave them a wonderful victory. Clearly, this experience was a foretaste of military leadership that Joshua would later use to good effect when leading Israel into the Promised Land.

In verse 14 following the victory, the Lord instructs Moses to write a memorial in the book about His verdict that He will completely remove the Amalek people, their enemy, from under heaven. Interestingly, he also tells Moses to ‘recite it in the ears of Joshua.’ It was important that Joshua remembered and learned that God guarantees victory for them over their enemies. God himself was in on the preparation to make Joshua the next leader.

The same lesson on God’s promise to defeat their enemies is echoed and confirmed after the later defeats of King Sihon and King Og in Deuteronomy 2 and 3, when the Lord instructs Moses to remind Joshua that, as the Lord did to those two kings, so will he do to all the kingdoms in the land they are going in to possess. Joshua is commanded, ‘You shall not fear them, for it is the Lord you God who fights for you.’ (Deuteronomy 3:22).

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Todd Egstrom helpfully describes biblical leadership as ‘meeting someone where they are, and taking them where Jesus wants them to go’.  
<http://toddegstrom.com/2013/11/11/what-is-biblical-leadership/>

## 2. Exodus 33:11 – Model and call them to Prioritise Intimacy with God

‘The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent.’

Joshua learned early on to keep the main thing THE main thing. By being often with Moses as his assistant, he no doubt learned to make time with God a priority. He was with Moses when they went up the mountain to for 40 days to receive the commandments of God (Exodus 24:1-18).

We see in this passage (Exodus 33:11) how Joshua had developed a familiarity and kept a close proximity to the one place in the camp of Israel where the visible presence of God was to be found – the Tabernacle. It would stand him in good stead for the future when he could confidently declare, ‘As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.’ (Joshua 24:15).

It is so important for those we are raising up to see and learn from us to make time with God a priority - an everyday norm. I have been privileged to see in Jon and other influential leaders in my life this same passionate desire for intimacy and practice of the holy habits of prayer, the reading and obedient response to Scripture and a lifestyle of worship.

They taught me well by the example and their exhortation.

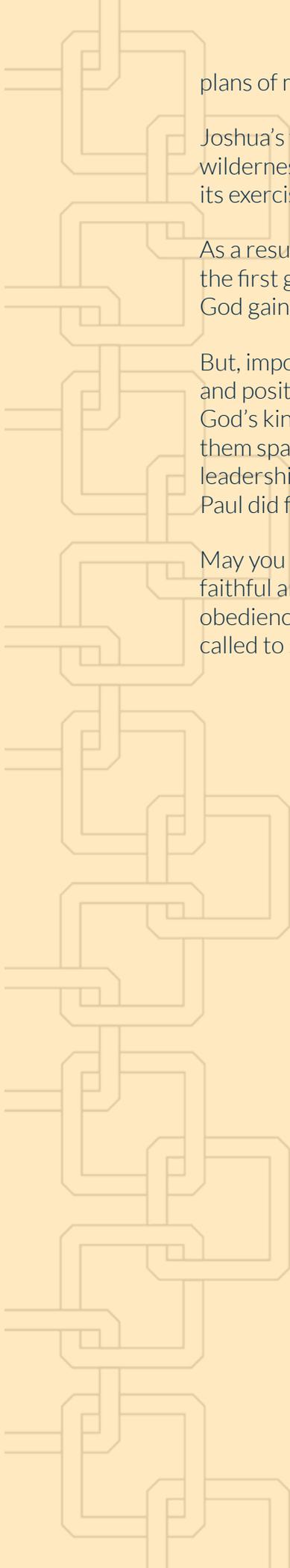
Are you doing the same with someone who is walking beside or behind you?

## 3. Numbers 14:6-9 – Nurture their Faith in God

We read in Numbers 13 of the account of the spies sent out into the promise land. When they returned, the majority of the spies spread a bad report and discouraged the people, saying there were giants in the land and there was no way to they could take over (verses 26-29 and 32-33). Only Caleb and Joshua spoke in faith that God was going to give them the land (verses 30-31 and Numbers 14:6-9). Their faith was not in what they saw and faced but in Whom they had heard and trusted.

Faith is legal tender in the Kingdom of God. If we have faith in God, all things are possible to us. But without faith, it is impossible to please God or even to do the works He calls us to do by His name and power.<sup>11</sup> Faith is the exercise of trust and obedience to enact divine transactions on earth for the purposes and glory of God.

How did Joshua come to have such a great faith? Clearly, by being called and allowed to walk closely to Moses as his aide, he would have learned and seen time and time again how faithful God was in the midst of all the challenges, opposition and trying times Moses faced as leader of such a rebellious people. He would have witnessed the same miracles that the people saw for themselves, as God constantly provided and protected them. But whilst Joshua kept and exercised his faith in God, the people of Israel choose instead to place their faith in their circumstances and the



plans of men.

Joshua's faith was therefore developing and growing by experience in the school of wilderness testing. Faith, like muscles, can only be grown and strengthened through its exercise.

As a result, Joshua and Caleb became the only two people out of a million or so of the first generation of Israelites who were allowed into the promise land. Faith in God gains us entrance into the land of His promise.

But, important for us to note, that Moses led by God, was intentionally preparing and positioning Joshua to succeed him as leader. In order to raise up leaders for God's kingdom who will do more than us, we must be humble and sacrificial to allow them space and time and to greatly encourage them to persevere in the call to leadership that God gives to them, as we see Moses doing with Joshua, or indeed Paul did for Timothy.

May you and I be faithful to do the things we are called to do as leaders, to stay faithful and fruitful, preserving in our call to tend the vision, maintain our passion for obedience to Christ, run the race of endurance as leaders and be preparing those called to succeed us.



If you have found this booklet helpful, have more questions or would like more help to become a disciple-making disciple of Jesus Christ, write to us at the following address: [info@namsnetwork.com](mailto:info@namsnetwork.com) or directly to the author and GEO of NAMS, Rev Manik Corea: [manikagcorea@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:manikagcorea@yahoo.co.uk).

This booklet is a compilation of a series of blogs that appeared on our website: [www.namsnetwork.com](http://www.namsnetwork.com). You can subscribe to receive weekly helpful blogs from NAMS leaders by clicking the 'contact' tab of the home page of our website.

### What is NAMS?

**NAMS stands for New Anglican Missionary Society. We are a community of pioneering, global church planters engaged in calling the faithful Church of Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to be obedient to the final command of Jesus (Matthew 28:19-20) by making disciple that make disciples, raising leaders that make disciples and planting churches that make disciples.**

We are headquartered in Pawleys Island, South Carolina, USA. NAMS colleagues and associates are making new disciples and planting new communities of faith on 5 continents and are working in or developing work in 42 nations.

You can get more information about us at our website: [www.namsnetwork.com](http://www.namsnetwork.com) or by writing to us at [info@namsnetwork.com](mailto:info@namsnetwork.com)

Check out our Youtube channel 'NAMS Network' for more disciple-making resources that we have produced to help Christians obey Jesus' final command.

Thank you.  
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