

Qualities of a Successful Leader

Biblical Leadership – Part 4

by BJ Rudge, Ph.D.

Building Confidence and Courage

One of the great challenges leaders face is encouraging others to step out of their comfort zone and overcome their fears. Joshua and Caleb faced this situation when Moses sent them, and 10 others, to spy out the Promised Land. Only Joshua and Caleb trusted God's promise and believed He would enable them to conquer a land filled with giants and fortified cities (Numbers 14:6-9).

Following the death of Moses, Joshua was called by God for a monumental task – to lead the children of Israel into the land He had promised. In his new role as leader, Joshua empowered the Israelites with confidence and courage. How did he do this? Joshua already knew his strength came from God. He trusted the One who spoke to him the following words:

Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them (Joshua 1:6).

Joshua did not let anyone or anything distract or deter him from obeying God. He decisively commanded the officers of the Israelites to prepare to take possession of the land (Joshua 1:10-11). Joshua's confidence, courage and zeal for the LORD inspired them:

And they answered Joshua, "All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go" (Joshua 1:16).

Trusting God and stepping out in faith not only enables us to be men and women of confidence and courage, but to ignite these attributes in others.

Counting the Cost

Leadership requires sacrifice – time, family, convenience and so on. At the same time it is crucial to create a balance in your life to avoid burn-out and provide essential time for personal growth and time with family.

Leadership brings greater expectations and accountability. You are held to

a higher standard because of a greater influential position. You become a bigger target in the spiritual battle that rages around

us (Ephesians 6:12). We have an adversary who, like a roaring lion, seeks to devour every follower of Christ. By attacking and destroying those in leadership, he can wreak havoc. Therefore, we are vigilant every day; putting on the full armor of God and steeping our minds in prayer.

A good friend of the family, Douglas Mastriano, is a colonel in the U.S. Army. In 1991 his regiment, the Second Armored Cavalry, was sent to Saudi Arabia to take the lead in the ground war offensive against Saddam Hussein's most loyal and motivated unit, the Republican Guards. In conversation about the various battles he was involved in during this Operation, Doug told me that the key to his regiment's success was preparation:

The training put an incredibly difficult strain on the soldiers and their families, but it did sharpen us into a well-tuned machine. Almost every month there was some sort of live-fire exercises, maneuver training, border duty, headquarter exercises and all sorts of battle drills to prepare us for that day, which even included a deployment to Turkey. We had trained for years for this day – and we were ready for it.

Colonel Mastriano and his men were ready because of what they did to prepare. That not one man was killed in his squadron, Doug correctly attributes also, to the power of prayer. So, too, if we want to be effective leaders, we must be like the soldiers of Doug's regiment: count the cost, prepare for the objective and saturate everything in prayer.

Providing Hope

Everyone deals with adversity. Effective leaders help others find hope in this journey of life and look beyond the current circumstance to see the bigger picture.

One year I was coaching a talented team that was struggling with playing up to their potential. So at practice I told them about my children taking a pottery class. The first day they were each given a lump of useless clay which the teacher said would be turned into a beautiful vase. That is exactly what happened as each of my children molded their clay into a vase which, despite a few imperfections, still sit on display in our house. I told



photo by Bill Rudge

my players that while we may not be where we want to be, we needed to keep moving forward because just like that lump of clay, our team can become a *beautiful vase*.

To instill hope in others, **leadership requires perseverance** and forward movement. I witnessed an amazing example of this during a high school soccer game against a regional opponent. It was an important game because both teams were undefeated and tied for first place. As the game began, it became obvious our team was the better. We kept the ball on the other team's half as we took shot after shot. In the end, we won 9 to 0.

While my players provided many great moments in the game, the greatest impact was made by the opposing team's goalkeeper. As I watched her warm up, I was impressed with her work ethic. But what especially caught my attention was how she dealt with a prosthetic leg. (After the game we learned she had lost her leg in a boating accident.) While I respected this girl, I wondered how she would be able to play goalkeeper.

I quickly realized that what I perceived as a "limitation" for this girl was, in fact, a driving force to do something that I am sure many people told her she could never do. Here was a teenager who had every excuse to stay off the field, but instead chose to persevere regardless of the loss of her leg. What impressed me even more than the fact she played, was how she played. She did everything a goalkeeper should do: dive, catch, punt and communicate with her teammates.

As our team began to score, putting constant pressure on the opposing team's defense, it was clear we were going to win the game but their goalie never stopped working hard. She kept encouraging her teammates, and got back up every time she dove for a ball. At one point she made an awesome diving save that caused her prosthetic leg to come loose. Without any drama, she hobbled over to the bench, adjusted the leg and came right back out like nothing happened. Until the final whistle, she continued to give everything she could for her team. She was a true inspiration to everyone at the game.

Just like this goalie, effective **leadership doesn't make excuses**. Leaders persevere through difficult times and provide encouragement and hope for those around them.

Inspiring Others

One of the most important lessons I have learned is the difference between motivation and inspiration. Motivation is an external influence while inspiration comes from within.

In my early coaching days, I was taught the best way to motivate athletes was in using fear or reward. I often said, "If you don't work hard today, you'll have to run sprints; if you do work hard, no sprints after practice." However, trying to motivate my players through the threat/reward

method resulted in having to repeatedly do so, and I eventually realized I was not getting their best efforts.

By contrast, inspiring players develops within them an internal love and passion for, and joy in, the game. This in turn dramatically impacts their overall effort as well as their ability to inspire those around them. But how is this accomplished? The following are a few ways I use to inspire my athletes:

I remind them of their roots. I began taking my seniors to our local YMCA, because it is the place our high school program held its first game. I tell them what sacrifices were made and how far our program has come, and remind them that they need to remember the tradition they are part of and to consider what legacy they want to leave.

I share personal memories and experiences. This field was the first place I ever played a game of soccer. When I first started at age six, I played for love of the game. I encourage my team to remember the excitement they had when they first played; to never lose the love and joy they had back then.

I build a sense of community. Each member is essential in working together for the common good. To illustrate this, we have chosen the redwood tree as a symbol worn on our practice shirts. Redwoods have shallow roots, despite their extreme height, and to withstand the wind, their roots interconnect with the roots of the surrounding redwood trees. Thus, when the wind blows it is not just blowing against one tree, but against a forest!

Finally, **I invest in their lives.** I demonstrate in word and action that the purpose of our program goes beyond winning; it is to help build character into their lives.

The previous points are steps my coaching staff and I employ to inspire our athletes, which has enabled us to build a reputable and successful program. It has also allowed us to make a difference in their lives. A graduating player invited me to attend a banquet for being an influence in her life. She gave me a special frame with the following quote:

You get the best effort from others not by lighting a fire beneath them, but by building a fire within.

The apostle Paul was an effective leader because he inspired others through his example. He told them to follow him as he followed the Lord Jesus Christ.

What Then?

We desperately need effective and godly leaders today. Such leadership comes through having a humble spirit, communicating effectively, possessing conviction, building confidence and courage in others, counting the cost, offering hope in difficult times and inspiring others. Those who lead in this manner will have a far-reaching impact for God and will be a blessing to others. 

Leadership requires forward movement.

Think About It ...

People of Courage

“There is a certain blend of courage, integrity, character and principle which has no satisfactory dictionary name but has been called different things at different times in different countries. Our American name for it is ‘guts.’”

Louis Adamic, *A Study in Courage* (1944)

“It takes courage to resist the peer pressure of your friends – courage not to go with the crowd. It takes courage to face reality. Courage to admit need. Courage to change. Courage to make decisions. Courage to hold convictions. Success is not based on the ability to say yes, but on the ability to say no. Ask any successful man or woman. Ask anyone with honor or virtue who elicits your respect. They will tell you they learned how to say no. However, courage and firmness must be directed by knowledge. You must know what is right in order to know what to resist and what to yield to.”

Edwin Louis Cole, *Courage*

“If we take the generally accepted definition of bravery as a quality which knows no fear, I have never seen a brave man. All men are frightened. The more intelligent they are, the more they are frightened. The courageous man is the man who forces himself, in spite of his fear, to carry on.”

General George S. Patton, Jr., *19 Stars*

“There are really no spur-of-the-moment decisions. Every decision a man makes is based on a lifetime of decisions which either enhanced or diminished his character. Courage is the ability to overcome fear and carry on with the mission. Moral courage, the courage of one’s convictions, is equally important. It takes a different kind of courage to stand up for what is morally right, particularly when others may want to act out of experience or self interest. An important aspect of duty is the courage of each of us to persevere in what we know is right and not make it easy for friends, peers, comrades, or superiors to do the wrong thing. Our professional ethic and individual values or moral principles must not be compromised because of the situation or circumstances.”

Field Manual 100-1

“God is looking for people of courage, strength and power who will stand up and impact this world for Christ. He is also looking for those who will not be compromised by dishonest gain, lying lips or deceptive motives. He is looking for men, women and young people who will live a life of integrity before Him and this world.”

Bill Rudge

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Deuteronomy 31:6

“A wise man has great power, and a man of knowledge increases strength.” Proverbs 24:5

How Children Learn Spiritual Lessons

“Young children repeat what they hear and imitate what they see. Youth receive moral instruction from television, movies, music, the Internet and their peers. How can they stand against secular influences and the lure of this world unless they have wise and positive role models who display principles of truth and righteousness and Godly mentors who will inspire them.”

Bill Rudge

Witness Encounters

Expect the Unexpected

by Jim Weikal

I arrived at church on a cloudy spring morning and saw a parked van in the church lot. Nothing unusual in this, but I couldn’t see through the darkly tinted window and decided that no one was there. As I got out of my car and walked back toward the trunk, a pleasant looking young woman exited the stationary vehicle and walked purposefully across the blacktop towards me.

She identified herself, and we began to talk. As I usually do on these occasions, I turned the discussion to spiritual matters. She was not raised in the church and had little understanding of salvation through Christ’s death and resurrection.

As I’ve learned over the years, Christians can assume that everybody understands terms like “saved,” “repent,” “sin,” “savior” when not everybody does. So I did my best to define these terms and use common illustrations that could be easily understood. She was tearfully moved by what I shared, and said she was looking for the peace that I had described. I invited her to come to church. She gave me a hug, and then returned to her car.

I went into the church and got Bill’s book *Who Is This Jesus?*, gave it to her and then prayed. I really like this book as a follow up to witnessing encounters. Since Christ is the center of a salvation explanation, *Who Is This Jesus?* presents a straight-forward picture of Jesus that is understandable to an unchurched person. This easily carried book has a chapter titled “How You Can Know Him” which adds extra clout to what you have already shared.

I keep some copies on hand at church and in my car so I have them near for those “expected-the-unexpected” times when God works through you to shine the light of His good news...news that can change a person’s life for eternity.

Sandra L. "Sandy" DeMatteis

4/29/53 - 4/14/17



Sandy DeMatteis had a giving heart. From biker and bartender to Christian and BRM prayer intercessor Sandy had a love and concern for anyone she met. She wanted all she knew to know Jesus. She volunteered her time at BRM to help pack boxes of books for our World Literature Outreach, prayed faithfully and cut

the grass at the ministry center with her husband Phil until her health declined. Several times Sandy collected shoes and bought socks and flip flops for an orphanage BRM supported in Africa, as well as paid the shipping expenses to send boxes of supplies to the Karen Rudge Foundation in Liberia. Sandy prayed, gave, loved and now she is with her Savior. We were blessed to know Sandy and receive of her kindness.

In Memory Of

Emerson Frost
by Bob & Carolyn Mild

In Honor Of

Lois Greathouse
Mary Alice Mook
and
Sandra Wolfgang
by Virginia Snyder

PSALM of Inspiration

"The LORD is gracious
and full of compassion,
Slow to anger and great
in mercy."

Psalm 145:8

Quarterly Receipts

Receipts for donations received in July, August and September will be mailed the beginning of October (unless you have requested only an annual receipt). Special gifts and cash donations are receipted immediately. This helps us maximize funds while maintaining strict integrity in receipting donations.

If you do not receive a quarterly receipt as confirmation of your giving please notify us at brm7@me.com or call 724-983-1223.

May the Lord bless you for your generosity and faithfulness in helping us reach this world for Christ. We are blessed to have you as ministry partners.

Just as a warning siren for an impending tornado may be heard by all, but is beneficial only for those who heed it, the love of Jesus Christ is unconditional towards all, but His mercy is beneficial only for those who receive it. *Bill Rudge*

Evidence For Faith

How Could Jesus Speak to Large Audiences?

by Bill Rudge

Scripture indicates that Jesus spoke to large audiences (thousands of people) by the Sea of Galilee. Skeptics said it would be impossible for Him to speak to thousands of people without amplification equipment.

However, I was in Israel at the site of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. The hill forms a natural amphitheater that slopes to the Sea of Galilee and amplifies the speaker's voice. The air above the Sea of Galilee is very static so that sound waves travel easily. It's possible Jesus stood at the bottom of the hill and spoke to the crowd who sat above Him.

Matthew 4:25-5:2 gives the following account:

Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed Him. Now when He saw the crowds, He went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to Him, and He began to teach them

While standing on the site of the Sermon on the Mount, I was talking in my normal voice to one of the pastors in our group who was almost 100 yards away, and he could hear me plainly. Then, while standing on the shore, we became very quiet and, although several hundred yards away, we could hear two fishermen talking to each other on a small boat.

Once again the Bible is authenticated and skeptics are silenced.

Tenth Holy Land Adventure

There already has been a lot of interest about *Holy Land Adventure 10* scheduled for February 17-26, 2018. Several people have signed up and others are trusting the Lord to provide the funds. Group size is limited to no more than 25 for this customized pilgrimage, mission trip and adventure.

Comments from fellow travelers on previous trips indicate these "adventures" are truly life-changing experiences.

We will share in an eventful, academic, life-altering trip as Scripture comes alive! Visiting traditional sites as well as sites rarely visited by tourists, as well as fun, fellowship and new friends are always highlights of Bill and Karen's popular tours.

BRM will also include mission outreaches, since Bill will be speaking in Jerusalem at a Messianic congregation to Russian immigrant Jews, as well as taking *Who Is This Jesus?* books, clothes and supplies to Jewish refugees, Palestinians and Arab Christians.

A slide presentation of our previous Holy Land Adventures is available on our web site at billrudge.org.

For a brochure, including itinerary and registration form, on this trip of a lifetime:

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