

Most people know or have heard that Jesus Christ was a great teacher, but have you ever paused to consider the impact of His life as a leader?

“One person trained twelve human beings who went on to so influence the world that time itself is now recorded as being before (B.C.) or after (A.D.) His existence.” —*Jesus, CEO* by Laurie Beth Jones

“This person worked with a staff that was totally human and not divine—a staff that in spite of illiteracy, questionable backgrounds, fractious feelings, and momentary cowardice—went on to accomplish the tasks He trained them to do. They did this for one main reason: to be with Him again.” —*Jesus, CEO* by Laurie Beth Jones

“His leadership style was intended to be put to use by any of us.” —*Jesus, CEO* by Laurie Beth Jones

Jesus said, “*Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit?*” —Luke 6:39

Action without direction is a dangerous thing. When you lose your vision, you risk great consequence in life.

Vision is essential in leadership.

“Leadership is lifting a person’s vision to higher sights, the raising of a person’s performance to a higher standard, the building of a personality beyond its normal limitations.” —Peter Drucker

How is vision developed?

- Experience
- Knowledge
- Imagination
- Adversity

“The greatest force for human achievement and advancement is a great hope held in common.” —Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Why is vision repeatedly discussed and reviewed?

...fall into a ditch... —Luke 6:39

• Vision Energizes Life

Without vision the people perish. —Proverbs 29:18

Vision changes the way you see and interpret your reality. Vision gives you the ability to keep climbing.

• Vision Prioritizes Focus

Vision helps you to remember where to look and keep your focus.

• Vision Mobilizes Teams

Vision is the reason beyond the task. Every great achievement in life requires a series of necessary tasks and responsibilities that may not be fun, exciting or enjoyable. However, vision enables a group of people to come together and achieve the greater good. Lose your vision and you lose the mobilizing force of your team.

“A task without vision is drudgery. A vision without a task is a dream. A task with vision is hope.”

• Vision Realizes Dreams

How can my vision be renewed?

Action Steps Toward Vision Renewal:

- **Assess**—Where are you in experience, knowledge, imagination and adversity?
- **Aspire**—What matters to you?
- **Aim**—What are you doing about your vision today?
- **Align**—What will you sacrifice to get there?
- **Ask**—Have you prayed? Ask for God’s guidance, strength and work in your life. Most of us lose vision because it is linked to our limited resource and ability. God wants to work in and through you. He has a vision and plan for your life.

“All men dream, but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their minds wake in the day to find it was vanity. But the dreamers of the day are dangerous men, for they may act their dreams with open eyes to make it possible.” —T.E. Lawrence



RED FLAGS FOR

Life & Leadership

#1: Vision

When you are invited to a wedding feast, don't sit in the seat of honor. What if someone who is more distinguished than you has also been invited? The host will come and say, "Give this person your seat." Then you will be embarrassed, and you will have to take whatever seat is left at the foot of the table! Instead, take the lowest place at the foot of the table. Then when your host sees you, he will come and say, "Friend, we have a better place for you!" Then you will be honored in front of all the other guests. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.
—Luke 14:8-11 NLT

Warning
Sadly for many, the idea of becoming a leader or a person of influence quickly gives us a "head table" mentality.

"Above all, leadership is a position of servanthood."
—Max Depress

"The principle of service is what separates true leaders from glory seekers." —Laurie Beth Jones

"People are supposed to serve. Life is a mission, not a career." —Stephen R. Covey

"Ultimately the choice we make is between service and self-interest." —Peter Block

Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets. —Matthew 7:12 NLT

"Golden Rule"

Be Proactive

After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the

messenger more important than the one who sends the message. —John 13:12-16 NLT

"Leadership is not something you do to people; it is something you do with people." —Ken Blanchard

Be Practical ("washed feet")



RED FLAGS FOR
Life & Leadership

#2: Servant Leadership

What do people need from you?

• **Respect**

Respect provides a sense of personal value and importance. Respect breeds responsiveness.

• **Appreciation**

"The deepest principle in human nature is the craving to be appreciated."

—William James

Common causes for unrest among workers:

1. Failure to give credit for suggestions.
2. Failure to correct grievances.
3. Failure to encourage.
4. Criticizing employees in front of other employees.
5. Failure to ask employees their opinions.
6. Failure to inform employees of their progress.
7. Favoritism.

—J.C. Staehle

• **Patience**

Patience is not simply waiting on something from someone, but understanding what it takes to complete a job and do it well.

• **Encouragement**

Everyone needs an "attaboy!"

• **Forgiveness**

All of us make mistakes and some mistakes come with a greater price than others. However, we need to communicate concern and forgiveness. If you don't forgive others, you don't see yourself realistically.

Be Praiseworthy

"For we are given power not to advance our own purposes nor to make a great show in the world nor in name. There is but one use of power and it is to serve people." —George Bush, Inaugural Address, 1989

Dr. John Maxwell is a gifted author, speaker, motivator, mentor and friend. He has written numerous books on the subject of leadership and I frequently quote him at PowerLunch. I recently heard him speak on a subject that is rarely addressed in leadership circles today—the subject of *blind spots*. John Maxwell received an e-mail from a businessman that prompted him to speak on this subject. In the e-mail, the man asked, “Is it your perception that leaders have blind spots? If so, how can we overcome blind spots?”

What are *blind spots*? John Maxwell defines it this way: “An area in the lives of people in which they continually do not see themselves or their situations realistically.”

The subject of blinds spots was also addressed by Jesus Christ over 2,000 years ago. Jesus said, “And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? How can you think of saying, ‘Friend, let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.” —Luke 6:41-42

Opening Observations

- We all have blind spots.
- We all have different blind spots.
- We all see the blind spots of others.
- We all need to deal with our own blind spots.

Understanding Key Principles

1. Principle of Projection

We often see situations in light of who we are rather than recognizing the differences in the point of view of others.

2. Principle of Reflection

When we see ourselves by our intention and others by their action, this creates judgment.

“...First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.” —Luke 6:42 NLT

Key question: ***What am I missing?***

3. Principle of Contextualization

“If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see everything as a nail.”

4. Principle of Multiplication

Since leadership is influence, a leader’s blinds spots spread and impact others.

Identify Common Blind Spots

There are certain “I” words that describe elements of effective leadership. These words include *initiative, insight, influence, imagination, ideas, improvements, increase, inclusiveness, information, integrity, intelligence* and *intuition*.

However, there are “I” words that prevent leaders from being effective.

• Ignorance

Ignorance is not an absence of knowledge; it is the failure to see beyond our own perspective. It is a self-imposed ignorance. When we ignore the perspective and perceptions of others, we are setting ourselves up for a blind spot blowup.

Some people approach their work this way: “Save time. See if my way.”

• Insecurity

“No man will be a great leader who wants to do it all himself or get all of the credit for doing it.”

—Andrew Carnegie

“Nothing is a greater impediment to being on good terms with others than being ill at ease with yourself.”

• Inconsiderate

Leadership is all about relationships. You never give your best to others if you don’t value people you lead and serve.

• Impeccability

Impeccability involves ego—the appearance of never making a mistake, talking about oneself, etc.

To be continued next week... **Imitation** and **Indecision**.



RED FLAGS FOR

Life & Leadership

#3: Blind Spots

Identify Common Blind Spots

There are certain “I” words that describe elements of effective leadership. These words include *initiative, insight, influence, imagination, ideas, improvements, increase, inclusiveness, information, integrity, intelligence* and *intuition*.

However, there are “I” words that prevent leaders from being effective.

• Ignorance

Ignorance is not an absence of knowledge; it is the failure to see beyond our own perspective. It is a self-imposed ignorance. When we ignore the perspective and perceptions of others, we are setting ourselves up for a blind spot blowup.

Some people approach their work this way: “Save time. See if my way.”

• Insecurity

“No man will be a great leader who wants to do it all himself or get all of the credit for doing it.”

—Andrew Carnegie

“Nothing is a greater impediment to being on good terms with others than being ill at ease with yourself.”

• Inconsiderate

Leadership is all about relationships. You never give your best to others if you don’t value people you lead and serve.

• Impeccability

Impeccability involves ego—the appearance of never making a mistake, talking about oneself, etc.

• Indispensability

“Pride is at the bottom of all great mistakes.”

—John Ruskin

Pride is concerned about *who* is right. *Humility* is concerned about *what* is right.

• Imitation

Some leaders try to project the image and persona of

another organization or leader on themselves and their people. However, strong leaders must become contextualized to their own organization.

• Inversion

Some leaders compensate for their weaknesses rather than tapping into their strengths.

• Indecision

Indecision breeds insecurity due to indecisive action and direction. A leader must be willing to seek advice when needed.

Dealing With Your Blind Spot

• Admit it.

It is best to quickly identify

and admit your blind spots in order to come to terms with them.

• Ask about it.

Seek the opinion and advice of others.

• Address it.

Opening talk about blind spots with key people. You need others to “cover” you. Be sure they know you and they understand why you need them.

• Accept it.

You need help from other people. Since you can’t eliminate blind spots, you need others to help cover and support you.

• Allow for it.

Leaders are like quarterbacks. They don’t get paid to run the ball; they get paid to get the ball to those who can score. Let others who have strengths in your “blind spot” areas empower, help and enable you.

• Appreciate it.

Responsibilities are covered when you appreciate the roles of others in helping you with your blind spots.

“You can do what I cannot do and I can do what you cannot do and together we can do great things.”

—Mother Teresa



RED FLAGS FOR

Life & Leadership

#4: Blind Spots, Part 2