



“LEADERSHIP” IS SPELLED “S*E*R*V*A*N*T”

Week 10—Philippians 2:19-30

Week 9 Flashback | Paul encouraged the Christians in Philippi to live godly lives because non-believers were watching. Through his letter, Paul reminded the Christians that they were responsible to share the truth and hope of the Gospel with a “sinful and evil people.” Therefore, they should not argue or complain among themselves. They should “shine like stars” in a dark world!

Read It | Philippians 2:19-30

¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. ²⁰ I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. ²¹ For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the Gospel. ²³ I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. ²⁴ And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon. ²⁵ But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus (ee-paf-roh-DIE-tuhs), my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. ²⁶ For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. ²⁷ Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. ²⁹ Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men like him, ³⁰ because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me.

Think About It | A Servant’s Heart *(Take turns reading)*

In Philippians 2:22 Paul said that Timothy had “proved himself” in the work of the Gospel and that Timothy **served** him like a child **servicing** his father. In our highly competitive society we don’t often see people gladly **servicing** each other. Instead we see people willing to claw themselves to the top, stepping on whomever gets in their way of success or popularity! But, it was not so with Timothy and Epaphroditus (ee-paf-roh-DIE-tuhs). They understood how Jesus defined leadership in Mark 10:43-44 when He said, “Whoever wants to become great among you must be your **servant**, and whoever wants to be first, must be slave of all.”

Paul had great confidence in Timothy and Epaphroditus. Paul knew that while he was imprisoned he could send these two out on his behalf. Paul knew that they would humbly **serve** the believers in Philippi, Corinth or Ephesus. And, Paul was confident that they would not have cocky attitudes that implied, “Listen to *us*, we are Paul’s right-hand men, so **serve** us!”

Oftentimes people feel the need to flaunt their power and authority to feel important. Maybe they do this because they are insecure and base their self worth on how they imagine others are viewing them! True Christian **leaders** don’t need others to stroke their egos. Why? Because they understand *who they are in Christ!* This truth frees them up to lay down their egos, selfishness, and personal wants to **serve** others! No one can do this on their own! You must rely on the power of the Holy Spirit who lives in the heart of every Christian forever.

-- Talk About It --

1. **Read** Philippians 2:20. Paul describes Timothy as someone who has a “genuine interest” in other people. As a Christ follower, you can’t **serve** others unless you are sincerely interested in them. **What** needs to change in you so you become **truly** interested in the lives and needs of others? **How** does the change come about?
2. Now that you are interested in someone other than yourself (ha!), **how** can you be a **servant leader** and show people that you care about their lives as much as your own?
3. **Read** verse 21. The Bible says we tend to put our own wants before all else, *even* in front of the interests of Jesus Christ. Wow! Jesus willingly died for us yet we don’t even consider that Jesus has personal interests too! **What** are the interests of our Lord?
4. **Discuss** whether or not Jesus takes a great interest in everything that concerns you, both big and small.
5. **Describe** the ways you put your own interests before:
 - a. family
 - b. friends
6. Putting the “needs of others first” is a great **leadership** quality! **List** as many characteristics of **leadership** that come to mind.
7. **Read** verses 25-30. Paul describes Epaphroditus four ways. **How** does each relate to **servant leadership**:
 - a. fellow worker (v. 25)?
 - b. fellow soldier (v. 25)?
 - c. caregiver (v. 25b, 30)?
 - d. martyr (v. 30)?
8. Paul wrote Philippians while under house arrest for preaching the Gospel. **How** did he demonstrate **leadership** when he sent Timothy and Epaphroditus to **serve** in his place?
9. True **leaders** empower others to lead. **What** makes it difficult to turn over or relinquish our **leadership** responsibilities and delegate them to someone else?

⚡ Lightning Bolt Moment →



It’s time for a mind **Jolt**. **Leaders** exist in every organization, whether in Corporate America or in the student government at your high school. But it’s important to realize that there are different types of **leadership**. In our culture, most people practice a top-down, self-serving **leadership** style. However, the Bible teaches that *the best form of leadership is spelled “S-E-R-V-A-N-T.”* With today’s lesson in mind, **give** examples of both a self-serving leader and a **servant leader**.

☀ Joy Shine →



When a business or a home operates within “**servant leadership**” principles, it enhances the **enjoyment** of those who participate! **Think** of modern-day examples of people, groups, or corporations that demonstrate genuine **servant leadership**.

How may this **leadership** style bring **JOY** to: **J**esus,

Others and

You?

Joy is cheerfulness, calm delight and heartfelt gladness from knowing and trusting the Lord. Unlike happiness, joy focuses on the source of life (God) rather than the circumstances of life (which change).

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