

Session 1 Jesus & Leadership Mark 10:32-45

Leader notes:

- We are going to unpack church and kingdom-person leadership over the next 5 weeks.
- Each week, we'll look at leadership from a different angle.
- Today, we'll look at the type of leadership Jesus adopted in his time on earth

Open:

- What are the different types of leadership you have experienced in your years of work and interaction? Which style did you despise? Which style do you love?
- What did your parents want you to be when you grew up?
- What was the most service-oriented job you ever had? What did love about it?

Dig:

- Read Mark 10:32-45
- Why would going to Jerusalem cause the disciples to be astonished and afraid?
- What impresses you about Jesus' resolve with the 12 and James and John?
- What view of the kingdom are James and John still clinging to? How could they respond like this in light of verses 33-34?
- What is the cup, the baptism, and the glory as each applies to Jesus? As each applies to the disciples?
- What made the other disciples indignant?
- How does Jesus use this uproar to convey new insights into what greatness is?
- How does Jesus practice what he preached? In the context, what is a "ransom for many"? How is the death of Jesus the ultimate service to all?
- How does 10:45 answer the question recorded in 8:37?

Reflect:

- How and why do you find yourself desiring the first chair in God's orchestra?
- How does Jesus' life as a servant influence your view of spiritual power? Your view of relationships? Your use of spiritual gifts?
- What one way could you serve this week?

Session 2 A New Kind of Leadership Romans 12:1-8

Leader notes:

- In the early church, function preceded position. By 325AD when Christianity became the official religion of Rome, Emperor Constantine gave buildings and titles to church leaders.
- Written about 50AD, in the 1 Thessalonian letter, it's clear Paul acknowledges function is preceding position. However, as early as the writing of Philippians (about 62/63AD) Paul starts the letter, "to the saints in Christ Jesus with the bishops and deacons." In only 13 years, function has now become a position.
- Jesus sets the example of what leadership among followers should look like.

Open:

- As a teen, how did peer pressure affect the way you dressed? Where you went? How you acted?

Dig:

- Read Romans 12:1-8
- How does this section relate to 11:30-32?
- What does 12:1 add to your understanding of true worship?
- Given the tensions between Jews and Gentiles, why would Paul write about gifts and their interdependence?
- What does Paul's listing here tell you about living in community?

Reflect:

- How does the world squeeze you into its mold? What pressure points seem strongest to you?
- How can you present your body as a living sacrifice in everyday life? How does this relate to using your gifts?
- Of the gifts Paul lists, which is the most difficult for you to do? Why? Which is the strongest gift for you? How so?

Session 3 Shepherds of the Flock Acts 20:13-38

Leader notes:

- Acts is written by Paul's traveling partner, Luke (a doctor)
- Paul spent about two and a half to three years in Ephesus during his third missionary journey (around 53–56 AD), preaching in the synagogue and the Hall of Tyrannus, performing miracles, and establishing a major early Christian community.
- Paul initially spoke in the local Jewish synagogue. When some rejected the message, he moved daily to the lecture hall of Tyrannus.
- His powerful ministry turned people away from the worship of the goddess Artemis. A silversmith named Demetrius started a massive riot in the great theater because local idol sales were dropping.

Open:

- Who has served as a spiritual role model for you? What about that person has rubbed off on you?
- As “parting is such sweet sorrow,” what in your life is “sweet n sour” these days?

Dig:

- Read Acts 20:13-38
- Why sail past Ephesus to reach Jerusalem for Pentecost (See 2:1)?
- What has characterized Paul's ministry so far? Why does he emphasize how he lived among them?
- From your reading of Acts, what kinds of hardships has Paul already encountered? How would you explain what motivates Paul to keep on?
- What does it mean to “keep watch”? How and why is their appointment as elders divine, humbling, and dangerous?
- How does the message of grace and the example of Paul protect them from these dangers? Some people viewed the office of elder as a way of gaining power and wealth. How does Paul oppose that idea here?
- What do you suppose the Ephesians will miss most about Paul?

Reflect:

- How would you paraphrase Paul's summary of the gospel (v21) to explain the faith to someone?
- Who makes up the “flock” for whom you are responsible? In what specific way can you shepherd them?
- Complete this: “The one thing I must accomplish at any cost is _____” How does it relate to Paul's goal in verse 24?

Session 4 Role of Shepherds in New Testament 1 Timothy 3:1-7

Leader notes:

- Written by Paul to young Timothy about 63AD
- Timothy was from Lystra and converted on Paul's 1st missionary trip
- There was false teaching happening by 2 elders in the Ephesus Church. Paul excommunicated them and put Timothy in charge of pastoring the church.
- Paul went on to Macedonia after making Timothy the church leader

Open:

- Growing up, do you remember a favorite shepherd at your church? What made them an inviting leader?
- When you were growing up and left with a new babysitter, were you an angel or a big brat?

Dig:

- Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7
- Given the struggle with false teachers (1:7), why is Timothy given this list of qualities for leadership? What, if anything, is distinctly Christian about these qualities? Why are all these qualities outward and not inward in orientation?
- How do you interpret "husband of one wife"? Does that mean a shepherd must not be single? Divorced? Widowed? Remarried?
- If the shepherd oversees the church family, why is it important for him to be in good standing with the outside community?

Reflect:

- Although applied here to church leaders, why are these qualities important for all Christians? Explain.
- Of these qualities, what are 2-3 you have made progress with this year? In which area do you want to grow?
- Why is it important to have more than one church leader?

Session 5 Household Leadership in New Testament Titus 1:5-15

Leader notes:

- Written by Paul to Titus about 63AD; probably a convert of Paul in his ministry
- Titus accompanied Paul on his crucial second visit to Jerusalem when the inflammatory question was raised about whether Gentiles had to follow Jewish customs in order to be genuine Christians (Gal 2:1-10)
- After Paul's release from prison in Rome, Titus and Timothy traveled with him to Crete on a preaching tour. Titus was left behind to establish the church they founded there.

Open:

- If a friend was introducing you to their parents, which of your credentials would they mention?
- If your local news source wanted to interview a Christian for a feature article, who would you recommend? Why?

Dig:

- Read Titus 1:5-15
- What does Paul say here about his relationship to God? To Titus? The goal of his ministry?
- Why is Titus given a list of leadership qualities, where the emphasis is on "being" and not "doing"?
- What should disqualify someone from church leadership?
- What's going on at Crete that Titus would need to appoint such elders? What is Paul's main purpose for instructing Titus in this?
- Paul mentions children. At what age do kids stop being "your responsibility"? Why do you say that?
- How do you define "Be hospitable"? Give examples

Reflect:

- If you were on a search committee at church responsible for finding people who meet these qualities, would you fit the criteria? Why or why not?
- Of the qualities in verses 8-9, which do you desire to develop yourself? How could someone help you?