

Leadership

Jim Downing

I. Introduction.

A. It takes a mixture of leaders and followers to get things done.

B. Definitions of leadership:

1. The activity of influencing people towards some goal they come to find is desirable or necessary
2. Getting things done through people (J.C. Penney)
3. Accomplishing your objectives utilizing the efforts of others (speaker's).
4. What is common?
 - a. Using people.
 - b. An objective or purpose.
 - c. Implication that other people are needed to fulfill the objectives of another person when he cannot meet them by himself.
 - d. Production.

C. The general idea - it starts with a person who cannot accomplish an objective but has to use others to accomplish his objective.

II. Personality qualities of a good leader.

A. Naming some of them: initiative, dependability, communication, imagination, availability, consistency, humility, wholesome minded.

B. Describing a leader in terms of personal qualities has been abandoned.

C. The questions the Air Force asks - did he accomplish his objective? Did he effectively utilize all available resources in accomplishing his objective? There are many fine leaders in terms of qualities who have not accomplished an objective.

D. West Point study.

1. Qualities often did not determine leadership. Followers often had the same or better qualities than the leaders.
2. Qualities were sometimes absent in a leader.
3. Leaders differ more one from another than their followers.

4. Conclusion: a leader's success depends less on his personality characteristics than on the bent to which his action facilitates action towards the group goal.

a. If followers disobeyed a leader, leadership failed.

b. Some characteristics of failed leadership: an inability to analyze the situation, an inability to know what to do about the problem.

5. Leaders must know what to do and do it.

III. Two types of leaders.

A. Authoritarian leadership.

1. The Russians, the Nazis - all had good leadership.

2. These were authoritarian leaders who subjected their followers to their control.

B. Personal leadership.

1. The President of the United States is a personal leader and an authoritarian leader.

2. This is so because his future depends upon how much he can get the people to support him.

IV. Christian leadership.

A. There are some authoritarian types.

B. However, Christians strive for personal leadership where their followers are voluntary.

1. The first kind is power over people, the second is a use of people to create power.

2. The former is concerned with the result, but the latter is concerned with the process by which the result is attained.

3. The former is by virtue of position, but the latter cannot help but be in that position.

4. The followers of the latter gain maturity of their hearts and desires.

5. Personal leadership is known by the personalities that it enriches.

C. There is one person who had both of these types of leadership - Christ was a leader and commander. (Isaiah 55:4)

D. Who you aspire to be like demonstrates the kind of character that you are.

1. The speaker would choose Billy Graham since God has anointed him in an unusual way.

2. Others: Abraham Lincoln, the Apostle Paul, etc.

E. Who are the five greatest leaders of history and why?

F. Who are the five greatest leaders in the Bible and why?

V. Constructing a prototype of a person who meets the qualifications of a leader.

A. Almost every study has agreed that the possession of the physical and nervous energy is essential for leadership.

B. This is due to heredity, environment, and the conscious use or abuse of our physical organism from day to day.

C. Common denominators of leadership.

1. Drive: a dynamism, an optimism, a self-confidence and a hunger for work.

- a. This is vital balance.
- b. It is not just about physical energy alone.
- c. It is not about mental ability alone.
- d. There must be a combination.
- e. The leader's show of energy releases energy.

2. Conviction: the leader knows with greater than average conviction what he wants to get done and where he wants to go.

- a. His objectives, purposes and aims are clear, attractive and persistently sustained.
- b. Conviction translates the common into beauty.
- c. In the exercise of the will the men are separated from the boys.

3. A history of achievement.

a. Military projects are turned over to civilians - there is very little original with them. The product comes from the inner qualities that must be possessed. The leader must possess certain personal characteristics. The first class follower and the first class leader are one and the same; you become a good leader by first being a good follower.

4. This all boils down to equipment.

a. God used some on a strategic level: Moses had a great educational background. So did Paul.

b. God used others on a tactical level - who did not know much. (Acts 4:13)

5. Human relations - the ability to influence people. The energy and magnetism to form and direct a team.

VI. Developing judgment.

A. Eight principles of war: maintenance of the objective, offensive action, security, economy of force, cooperation, mobility, surprise and pursuit.

B. If a person is emotionally stable and in good health, one's judgment is just as stable as another's.

1. A man's judgment is no better than his information.

2. The Lord's leading is often dependent upon the information.

Application questions.

1. Explain the five principles of leadership in your own words.

2. How do you account for the tension that occurs in the speaker's message concerning the need for personality qualities in leadership and the claim that they are not a factor?

3. What principles will you apply to refine your own leadership skills? How will you put them into practice?
