

## Leading By Example

I recently read a story about a small group of soldiers assigned to repair a defensive barrier during the American Revolution. The man in charge of the effort shouted instructions to his men but did nothing to help them. A man in civilian clothes was riding by at the time and observed the dictatorial leadership style. When asked why the man in charge did not help the short-handed crew, he said, "Sir, I am a corporal," flaunting his leadership position. The civilian immediately dismounted his horse and helped repair the defensive barrier. When the job was finished, the civilian said to the leader, "Corporal, next time you have a job like this and not enough men to do it, go to your commander-in-chief, and I will help you again." Then, George Washington got back on his horse and rode off.

Jesus said, *"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant."* (see Matthew 20:26-28, below). Jesus said this in response to the conflict among His disciples of who would be the greatest in Jesus' Kingdom. Like the Roman rulers who consistently flaunted their superior status, the disciples sought a position of power and authority. Power struggles are not the way of the kingdom of heaven. Philippians 2:3 also speaks to that topic: *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves. Do not be so proud that you think you are above a task that you ask others to do.*



It should be noted that Jesus didn't tell His disciples not to have ambition, but He told them to humble themselves and put others first. Lead with humility.

Jesus was the ultimate example. The final verse in our featured scripture reads, *even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many* (Matthew 20:28). If the leader acts in love and in service to others, those who follow the leader will do the same. (read John 13:12). George Washington followed Jesus' example of servant leadership. How about you?

**The Bible Says:** *It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."* (Matthew 20:26-28).

**Closing Prayer:** Most gracious Heavenly Father. We humbly come to you, willing to step up and help others achieve. We are willing to pitch in and do whatever is needed for success. We pray we will be respectful of others, and that our love and acts of service will be an example for others to follow. Amen.

Source: The above opening story is from "Sermon Resources," an online source of sermon starters.