



Careers in Retail Week 2 – Leadership and Managerial Skills

Scripture

Matthew 20:25-28

25 But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 26 It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever would be first must be your slave, 28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Thought for Today

Sometimes true leadership is the opposite of what we might expect. Often times, our picture of leadership looks like nothing but power, authority, and greatness. However, the clearest picture of leadership is humble service. In his book *Leadership Is an Art*, Max De Pree, a long-time CEO and the founder of the *Fortune* Hall of Fame says, “The finest responsibility of a leader is to define reality. The last is to say thank you. In between the two, **the leader must become a servant and a debtor.**”

Jesus calls his disciples to the same kind of servant attitude. Jesus’ disciples had been bickering about who would be the greatest among them, but Jesus turned their expectations upside down when he said the greatest must become the servant the and first must become last. In Jesus’ eyes, the best leader is the one who serves the best.

Jesus’ own life is the greatest example of this principle. Jesus demonstrated this kind of servant leadership for his disciples by the way he lived. Even though he was the God of the universe, he did not come to be served but to serve the world with everything he had. He performed his greatest act of service when he gave up his life completely for the whole world on the cross. Jesus came to serve so that all men might have eternal life through him.

Question for Reflection

As you think about servant leadership, how might your life look differently when you begin to lead as a servant first and foremost?

For Further Study

John 13:1-20