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Savior, Lead Me

Savior, lead me lest I stray
 (lead me lest I stray)
 Gently lead me all the way;
 (lead me all the way)
 I am safe when by Thy side
 (safe when by Thy side)
 I would in Thy love abide
 (in Thy love abide.)

Thou, the refuge of my soul,
 (refuge of my soul,)
 When life's stormy billows roll;
 (stormy billow roll,)
 I am safe when Thou art nigh,
 (safe when Thou art nigh,)
 All my hopes on Thee rely
 (hopes on Thee rely.)

Savior, lead me then at last,
 (lead me then at last,)
 When the storm of life is past,
 (storm of life is past,)
 To the land of endless day
 (land of endless day,)
 Where all tears are wiped away.
 (all tears are wiped away.)

Chorus:
 Lead me, lead me,
 Savior, lead me lest I stray;
 Gently down the stream of time,
 Lead me, Savior, all the way.

Frank M. Davis, (w. 1882)

Frank M. Davis, (m. 1882)



Leadership Is...

Everyone is a leader in some way in their life. How can I be a leader? The best way to be a leader is to follow the example of Jesus! Matthew 20:25-28 reads: "Jesus called them together and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave. Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.'"

Leadership is servanthood! John sent two of his disciples to ask Jesus if he was the expected one, and Jesus responded in Luke 7:22-23: He said to them, "Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have the gospel preached to them. Blessed is he who does not take offense at Me."

Notice Jesus responded by what He did. We can be a great leader for Christ by what we do. Even the smallest things make a big difference!! A good leader's purposes prioritize their life. Matthew 6:33: "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

Albert Einstein is credited with saying, "Setting an example is not the main means of influencing another; it is the only means."

In southwest Asia during the 14th century, Emperor Tamerlane's army suffered a devastating defeat. His army dispersed in retreat. Tamerlane escaped and hid in a deserted manger while enemy troops scoured the countryside.

As he lay there in the mud, desperate and dejected, Tamerlane noticed an ant trying to carry a kernel of corn over a perpendicular wall. The kernel was larger than the

ant itself. Fascinated, the emperor counted how many times the little ant tried to carry the corn up the wall but failed. The tenacious little ant tried 69 times, and 69 times he fell back—but did he give up? No! On the 70th try, the ant pushed the grain of corn over the top!

Catching the little ant’s spirit, Tamerlane leaped out of the mud with a shout. He, too, would triumph in the end. Gathering up his army, he reorganized them, and with renewed spirit, they attacked the enemy and won the battle. Tamerlane had been successful, too, just like the tiny ant. (The Speaker’s Sourcebook, page 289).

Loyd Waite, Rolla, MO

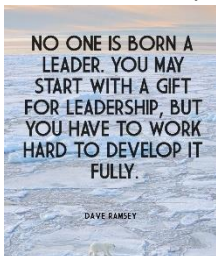


“Born Leader”

We often use this phrase to describe those who effectively and capably take charge in any given situation. The implication is that these people possess an innate ability to guide the actions of others and intentionally use their natural gift when called upon.

Let’s take a look at some examples of Biblical leaders who, when called by God, could not wait to showcase their “born” leadership skills.

Israel, God’s chosen people, were in bondage in Egypt and were in desperate need of someone to lead them to



freedom in the Promised Land. Out of a burning bush on Mt. Horeb, God called on Moses to perform this monumental leadership task. “Uh, You want me, a lowly flock tender, to go to Egypt and deal with Pharaoh? You’re kidding, right?” God told

Moses to just tell them, “I AM sent you.” Still reluctant, Moses asked what would happen if no one believed a shepherd was being sent by God Almighty to lead the Israelites out of Egyptian bondage. God bolstered Moses’s confidence by providing him with a few miracles to perform as proof he was indeed God’s emissary. Still unconvinced he was born to this leadership position, Moses tried to use his lack of eloquence and slow tongue as excuses to decline the job; but God reminded Moses that his very mouth, ears, speech, hearing and sight were gifts from Him to be used in His service. Go and God would guide his speech. Moses still pleaded with God to send someone else to lead His people, so God provided Aaron, an eloquent speaker, to accompany Moses as his brother’s spokesperson. Moses had all the questions, but God had all the answers.

After settling in the Promised Land, God’s chosen nation clamored for a king, so God called on Saul to assume this leadership position. As an Israelite from the smallest tribe, Saul did not think he had the proper pedigree to become Israel’s first king, but God changed his heart. Saul was anointed by Samuel and an assembly was called to present him as God’s royal emissary. But where was King Saul? He was hiding in the baggage. (I wonder what innate trait of born leadership sent Saul scurrying there?)

Throughout Israelite history, God selected seers to share His message with His people. God’s wisdom was directly spoken to these prophets, so His children could be led in a right relationship with their Father. When called by God to deliver His salvation message to the people of Nineveh, Jonah’s inborn leadership kicked in and he immediately fled to Joppa to catch a ship bound for Tarshish, which was thousands of miles in the opposite direction.

So, maybe the ability to lead is not an innate trait. Perhaps everyone, no matter position or passion, has been equipped by God to lead, either directly or indirectly, either out in front or behind the scenes. (Romans 8:28). And, anyone who submits to God’s calling can count on Him to help them overcome all shortcomings and failings as they rely on Him to lead the way. (Philippians 4:13).

“A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way.” John Maxwell

Linda Roberts, Rolla, Missouri



Leader in Action

One day a third grade class was working on Dr. Seuss projects in the library. Everybody seemed to be having a good time until a boy came up to me complaining that another student was ‘bugging’ him.

I said, “Just try to ignore him and do your project.”

Things went well for a few more minutes, then the ‘bugger’ came to me in tears and said the first boy, “made fun of my project.” He went on to say something bad that I have refused to store in my memory.

I went to the table where three boys were sitting. I asked, “Did you say that?”

He said, “No, I did not. I said “____,” and he proceeded to tell me exactly what he had said.

“That is worse,” I said. “Come over here and let’s talk.”

I used my best strategy to try to get him to feel a little bit bad about what he said. I called his name and said, "You know there are a few kids in our school that I expect to say things like that, but not you. You have always done better than that."

It didn't work! He was even angrier as he said, "He never leaves me alone. I am sick of it."

I asked, "Did it ever occur to you that he wants to be by you, because you are a nice kid?"

The answer was an emphatic, "NO! He just likes to bug me."

Being somewhat disappointed in both of us, I told him to go sit wherever he wanted to.

Then I turned my attention to the 'bugger.' He and the third boy at that table were happily working together. Two dark haired little heads were bent over a single sheet of paper. They were both actively creating a masterpiece.

When the teacher came to pick up the class, I looked at their picture. It had only the 'bugger's' name at the top. I asked the other boy, "Why is your name not on this? You worked on it, too."

He said, "I didn't do much, (the other boy) did almost all of it himself, but I will put my name in little letters."

This actually was not true. This boy did more of the work than the other. But like a true leader, he got the very best the other kid had to give, then gave him the credit!

God has blessed me with many leaders like this, but until these three little 8-year-old boys opened my eyes, I am not sure I even knew what they were up to. Many times I took more credit than I deserved.

As the class was walking out the door, the first little boy very shyly came to show me what he had drawn. He did not seem so angry anymore. Maybe we both learned something.

Our young leader died of cancer just a few years later. Every year there is a special day set aside in this town to honor him. I am thankful others recognized the special qualities he had.

Dortha McCollum, Colorado

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Are You Leading?

Leadership is something almost all of us have, at least to some degree. Many are "natural born" leaders and seem

to automatically rise to the top leadership roles in school, at work, or even as a profession. The oldest child in a family often becomes a leader of the younger siblings and can organize them into an effective group for play, work, or entertaining others.

The Bible is full of leaders. Some were good leaders; some were not so good. Some were righteous; others were corrupt. Some were willing leaders; some were reluctant. Some had great empathy, and others had great vision. Some ruled arrogantly (think Pharisees). The greatest leader in the Bible was the servant King.

Leaders in the church may or may not become elders (shepherds) of a congregation. They may serve effectively as deacons or ministry leaders and serve in those capacities for many years. One may be trained in leadership as in the military or in business. Leadership can also be by quiet example and by serving others, especially in local congregations.

When we think of leadership in the Bible, are there characters who immediately spring to your mind? Perhaps you thought instantly of Noah or Abraham. Maybe it was Moses or Joshua and Caleb. David is one who automatically comes to my mind, as do several of the prophets.

In the New Testament, the first person most of us think of is Jesus. Wherever He went, He was almost immediately surrounded by throngs of people; but those closest to Him on a daily basis were being trained by Him. Who would have thought of fishermen, tax collectors, and tent makers as leaders in a movement that took the then known world? Yet, those men became fearless leaders in the New Testament church. They preached the gospel to thousands, and they taught other men to be leaders as well.

Women in the Bible were also leaders, not always leading in the best way. Miriam conspired with her brother, Aaron, to revolt against Moses. That is, they revolted until God punished them and strongly caused them to "reconsider" their course of action! But as a young girl, Miriam played a role in Moses being rescued from the Nile River by Pharaoh's daughter. It was Miriam who fetched her own mother to be the one who would take care of Moses until he was old enough to be weaned and subsequently brought up in Pharaoh's household.

Rahab had heard of the God of the children of Israel, and she did not hesitate to assist them in Jericho. Her profession was on the dark side, yet she is described as faithful, and she is in the earthly ancestry of Jesus! She

is one of only four women who are mentioned in the NT genealogies of Jesus.

We also think of Esther, Naomi, Abigail, and Hannah. Some were in prominent positions or were widows or were barren. Each one was mentioned by name in the Bible. Thousands of other women were mentioned in passing, but we don't even know their names. Delilah, Jezebel, and Sapphira are high on the list of "bad" women leaders. They were of such character and disposition that we would not want to follow their examples!

New Testament examples include Mary, the mother of Jesus. She never seems to draw attention to herself, yet she was chosen to be the mother of the Jesus, the Christ. Her life must have been filled with moments of great pride and joy in her Son. At the end of His life, she endured torment as she watched her Son die an agonizing death on the cross. Her suffering that day is beyond my imagination!

Other women in the New Testament included those who traveled with the disciples (Joanna, Susanna, and others) and helped them. Their service, possibly in handling food, laundry, etc., enabled the disciples to spend precious time with their leader, Jesus. Other New Testament women mentioned by name included Priscilla, Dorcas, Lois, and Eunice. All of these women were important as the New Testament church grew in the first century.

Let us follow the good examples of women in the Bible as we follow our Master, The Great Leader of all times.

Evelyn Waite, Rolla, MO



Six Qualities of Leadership

In Deuteronomy, Moses began to review the events of the last forty or so years—what happened to cause the wilderness wandering and then what occurred while in it. In the middle of the first chapter, he talked about the time he implemented his father-in-law Jethro's plan to handle the numerous issues that were coming up between the Israelites. He called these men "judges" (as contrasted with the men and women who would wear that title and deliver the people beginning a few generations after Moses) who had certain divinely-given qualifications to meet (Deuteronomy 1:15-17). They were to be wise. Verse 13 adds "understanding" and "knowledgeable." Knowledge is the foundation beneath wisdom, and understanding is an outgrowth and

application of wisdom. Problem solving and issue-resolving require wisdom. They were to be experienced, not novices. They were to have demonstrated the ability to judge and discern difficult situations. They were to possess righteous judgment. In conflict, each one feels he is right and the other party is wrong. How were these leaders to tell? A mind clear from improper motives and rash judgment would more clearly discern situations. They were to be impartial. Favoritism was tantamount to corruption. Conflicts had to be resolved with utmost fairness. They were not to ignore "big" or "little" problems. The "small" and "great" fell to them to handle, if they could. If it was too big for them, Moses could be called upon to intervene. Yet, the design of this system was for these men to handle these matters. "Big" problems were not to be shied away from for their enormity; neither were "small" problems to be scoffed at in their seeming insignificance. Those enduring "big" problems needed intervention, and those who had "small" problems no doubt saw them as big in their own eyes. They were not to fear any man. They could easily face intimidation, threats, bullying, bribery, ostracism or the like. However, these men were to stand tall and fearlessly before each situation. The system set up by God right out of Egypt and before the wilderness journeys is not a direct parallel to God's pattern for leadership today. Yet, the text is dripping with principles and application. These same qualities will help Gods leaders be quality leaders today!

By Neal Pollard via Voice of Truth (adapted)



Luke 22:26

*But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, **and the leader as one who serves.***



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