



Lead Like Jesus: Part 2

WEEK 3



We Serve **PUBLISHING**
A Tennessee Baptist Mission Board Ministry

Sermon Manuscripts

Sermon 3: Lead Like Jesus: The Attitudes and Actions of a Leader

Mark 10:32 – 45

Outline

- I. Introduction
- II. The Connection Between Attributes, Attitudes, and Actions
- III. The Attitudes and Actions of a Leader
 - a. Trustworthiness that Stems from Integrity
 - b. Servant-heartedness that Stems from Humility
 - c. Empathy that Stems from Love
 - d. Resilience that Stems from Courage
 - e. Diligence that Stems from Perseverance
- IV. Conclusion

Introduction

I had a patient come in for an MRI one day. It was the end of the day, and it had been a long, rough day. I was tired, worn out, and frustrated. She was the last patient on the schedule, so when I finished up her scan, I got to go home.

She came in for an MRI of her brain. She was 36 years old, and she had been having headaches for a few months. There was nothing else in her history.

When you see a patient's history like that, you just assume there's not really anything going on. All I wanted her to do was get on the table, be still, and then off the table so I could go home. And she did exactly what I asked of her. She was a good patient.

The problem was her husband and kids. She had her husband and three kids with her. All three of her children were under the age of 10. And, as far as I could tell, her husband was pretty useless because those kids were running wild.

They started in my waiting room, running, screaming, and jumping off the chairs. They knocked a picture off the wall and broke it.

I hadn't even started the mother's MRI when I heard the crash, so I had to get up and go in there to make sure everything was okay. The husband was just sitting in a chair watching TV. He looked up and said to me, "They just broke your picture. What are you going to do? Boys will be boys."

I stared at him for a minute with a look of disgust on my face. I was trying to beam a subliminal message into his brain. He didn't get it.

Before I even got back to the control room to do the woman's scan, I could hear these kids out in our patient prep area. I don't know what they were doing, but it sounded like they were playing football or something. They were yelling and screaming. Then, I heard another crash.

Keep in mind that I still haven't started the scan. So, I got back up and went out there, and one of those kids had climbed up on top of the crash cart. It was a big cart with all this expensive equipment and drugs in case someone coded. And they had knocked the defibrillator off it.

Now, just as a rule of thumb, I'm not the most patient guy in the world. I'll own that. But when I was younger, I wasn't patient or kind. So, when I went back out there and saw what these kids were doing, I lost it a little bit, not on the kids but on the husband. He was still sitting in the waiting room watching TV, and I lit him up. I let the husband have it. "Control your animals, or you're going to be waiting in the car!"

Now, it's finally quiet, so I go back around, and I start the mother's scan. At this point, I'm mad. I just want to go home. I should have been done by now.

But then something changed. Her images started coming up. She had a massive brain tumor. It was the most aggressive form of brain cancer. Immediately, I knew it was terminal. And I slumped back in my chair. I just sat there for a minute.

By this point, the kids had started getting rowdy again. It had been a little while since I started their mother's scan, and they had started making noise. They were running and playing and laughing.

This time, though, I wasn't annoyed by them. I wasn't angry at them. My heart hurt for them because I knew the moment I got their mom off the table, their entire world was about to be turned upside-down. And as tired as I was and as ready as I was to go home, I couldn't bring myself to do that to them. So, I just ran a few more unnecessary scans because I wanted to give them a few more moments of joy.

The Connection Between Attributes, Attitudes, and Actions

The only thing that changed for me was my attitude. Your attitudes determine your actions. When you are presented with situations, ideas, or people, your attitude towards those situations, ideas, or people will dictate how you respond in the moment.

When you come home from work and you've had a bad day, maybe you're not in the best mood in the world, everything tends to annoy you. "Why is the house messy? Why are the kids so loud? Why is dinner not ready? Why didn't you take out the trash? Why didn't you do a load

of laundry? Why didn't you hang up close? Why are your socks in the floor?" When we're not in a good head space, we tend to have negative actions that reinforce our negative mood.

The opposite is true also. When we're in a good frame of mind, everything is great. "The kids are loud and messy? No worries. Boys will be boys. They're just having a good childhood."

"Dinner not ready? No problem. I wanted Mexican anyway."

That's what I mean when I say your attitudes drive your actions. How you perceive things in the moment determines your response.

Now, here's why that's important in our series. Your attributes determine your attitudes, and your attitudes drive your actions.

We looked at the attributes of a leader last week. If you want to lead well in your home, church, and community, you have to have the character to do so. Leadership doesn't start with tips and tricks and management techniques. Biblical leadership starts with the leader's character.

Last week, we saw five attributes that helped make Jesus the most influential person in the history of the world. Great leaders have integrity, humility, love, courage, and perseverance. Those are five foundational character traits that you must have if you want to lead well. You can have other attributes, but you must have those five. If you want to be the husband, father, wife, or mother that God designed you to be, you have to have integrity, humility, love, courage, and perseverance. If you want to lead a ministry in the church or community that impacts people's lives for the glory of God, you have to have those five attributes.

The reason your character is so important in leadership is because your character attributes determine your attitudes. Stephen Covey discusses this concept briefly in *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. He says there are external stimuli, freedom to choose how you respond, and then your response.¹

I want to expand that a little bit, so here's a graphic I developed. You are constantly presented with situations, ideas, and people. Those are external stimuli. You are not in control of any of those, but you are constantly affected by them.

The external stimuli always affect you internally. You are going to internalize the external stimuli. How you perceive those situations, ideas, and people, or how they affect you, will be filtered through the lens of your character. So, you have external stimuli coming in. Your character filters the stimuli and determines how you feel about it. Your character determines your perceptions of the world around you. That's because your character determines your

1. Stephen R. Covey, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* (New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 1990), 71.

attitudes. Who you are determines how you perceive the situations, ideas, and people around you.

Then, your attitude drives your actions. So, things happen to you. Your character produces certain attitudes toward those things. Then, your attitude produces the following actions.

Let me give you an example. We all love Chris Grimes, but nobody loves paying taxes. Now, technically, I'm self-employed. That's how my taxes are filed. My taxes are not automatically taken out of my check. In fact, there is historically a large chunk of income that I receive that is not reported to the government by the institution that pays me. Most of the time, when I preach revivals and special services and conferences and things like that, the church will pay me, but there's no W-2 attached to that payment.

So, now I have an external situation. I have income that I could choose to pay tax on, or I could choose not to pay tax on. The IRS has no idea that I was paid this money. There is no way I would get caught if I didn't report it. So, I have true freedom of choice.

So, the situation gets filtered through my character. If I have integrity, even though I don't like paying those taxes, I will respond to that situation with an attitude of trustworthiness. I don't like it. I would prefer not to pay taxes. I like keeping my money, or at least I like spending my money on what I want to spend it on. I don't want to give the government my money, but integrity demands you view that situation with a certain attitude. Because I have integrity, I will have an attitude of trustworthiness that ultimately produces the action of gritting my teeth when I write the IRS a massive check every year. Do you see what I'm saying?

Every situation in your marriage filters through your character. Every situation in the church filters through your character. Every situation in the community filters through your character, and you perceive situations, ideas, and people in a certain way because of the attitudes your character produces.

The Attitudes and Actions of a Leader

That's what we're going to look at this morning. Grab your Bibles and turn with me to Mark chapter 10. Last week, the title of the message was *Lead Like Jesus: The Attributes of a Leader*. We were in John 13, and we saw those 5 character traits of Jesus. The title this morning is *Lead Like Jesus: The Attitudes and Actions of a Leader*. And so, we're going to see this morning how Jesus's character attributes determined his attitudes and, ultimately, his actions.

Your attitudes toward the situations, ideas, and people that you encounter on a daily basis will determine your success far more than any single skill will. You don't have to have all the skills in the world to be a great leader, but you do have to have the right attitudes. And in Mark chapter 10, we're going to see the attitudes that Jesus possessed. Let's begin in verse 32.

³² And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, ³³ saying, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. ³⁴ And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise.”

³⁵ And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” ³⁶ And he said to them, “What do you want me to do for you?” ³⁷ And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” ³⁸ Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” ³⁹ And they said to him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” ⁴¹ And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. ⁴² And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ⁴³ But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,^[d] ⁴⁴ and whoever would be first among you must be slave^[e] of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Trustworthiness that Stems from Integrity

In this story, we can see five attitudes that are produced by Jesus’s character. First, because Jesus has integrity, he has an attitude of trustworthiness. We can trust Jesus. And we can trust people with integrity because people with integrity behave in a trustworthy manner.

Your character is always on display. You can’t say you have integrity and then not display integrity because if you have it, you have a natural predisposition to behave in a certain way. People will always tell you who they are. Believe them.

So, to decide whether someone has integrity, you look for their kneejerk reaction to a difficult or stressful situation. When someone is put in a stressful situation, their character is amplified. In challenging situations, people’s self-preservation instincts will kick in. When we have to make difficult decisions on the spot, our instincts will force us to make choices that are true to our nature.

In those moments, becomes obvious whether or not someone is trustworthy. An untrustworthy person will be unreliable. They don't stick to deadlines, appointments, or follow-ups. They make commitments to themselves or others and then break them.

Untrustworthy people get defensive and make excuses. You can pick that out in a second. You watch when something unexpected happens to someone who lacks integrity. Their first impulse is always to make an excuse to avoid responsibility. "It's not my fault because..." And if they can't shift the blame to someone else, they'll defend their questionable actions and decisions to the death.

One of my favorite leadership books is titled *Extreme Ownership: How U.S. Navy Seals Lead and Win*. It's written by two Navy Seals. The opening premise of the book is that "The leader must own everything in his or her world. There is no one else to blame."² Leaders who get defensive and make excuses have a gross lack of integrity.

They lie. Untrustworthy people will always lie and cheat to get ahead. Have you ever been around someone, and you know that if their lips are moving they're blowing smoke? You know that person. We all do. Do you trust them? Of course not. They lack integrity.

But far too often, that describes leaders in our homes, churches, and communities. Does it not? I've seen this in marriage counseling. I've seen this in the pastorate. And we've all seen this in the workplace. We've all worked for someone who makes commitments that they won't keep. They get defensive the moment something happens. They lie to make excuses and horde all the glory for themselves. These are men and women who lack integrity. And so, when anything happens, their posture towards those external stimuli is always an untrustworthy attitude. Their first instinct is always towards self-preservation. They have an untrustworthy attitude, so they behave in an untrustworthy manner.

But then you contrast that with Jesus. He has integrity to the max, so he is trustworthy in how he deals with people. Jesus is open. Jesus is honest. Jesus is transparent. He owns his role. He doesn't make promises he can't keep.

Just look at verses 32-34 in our text.

And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, ³³ saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. ³⁴ And

2. Jacko Willink and Leif Babin, *Extreme Ownership: How the U.S. Navy Seals Lead and Win* (New York, NY: St. Martin Press, 2017), 30.

they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise.

Jesus openly shares with His disciples about His impending suffering, death, and resurrection. He's honest. He's not trying to cover it up so that they don't abandon them. He is concerned with preparing his disciples for what is coming.

Further, in our text, James and John ask for positions of privilege, and in verse 40, Jesus says, "To sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant." He's not making promises he can't keep.

This is how a leader with integrity communicates with people: They are open, honest, and as transparent as wisdom allows. They are not harsh. Being truthful doesn't mean being harsh with people. You can temper your speech with grace. But when you have an attitude of trustworthiness, you're honest.

And then, the things they do match the things they say. That's an outlandish concept, isn't it? That someone would be honest and then do what they said.

But the truth is, we all have these little moments of integrity fails. I got pulled over the other day, and the cop walked up to my window and said, "Do you know how fast you were going?" Now, I could have said, "I couldn't have been going over 80 officer." I could have said that, but I didn't. I just looked at him and said, "I don't know. You tell me." We all go to the dentist, and we all tell him the same lie. "Oh yeah, I floss every day.

We all have these integrity failures, but not Jesus. He always has an attitude of trustworthiness. Every situation is an opportunity for him to build trust. Because of that, he's always open and honest and behaves in a manner that is internally consistent with his character.

Servant-heartedness that Stems from Humility

Number two, the attribute of humility, produces an attitude of servant-heartedness. There really is a great contrast in our text between Jesus and his disciples concerning this. In verse 37, "They said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory."

That's pretty bold. James and John clearly have a high view of themselves. "We want to have positions of honor in the kingdom," they say.

Then, the pride of the other disciples flares up. Verse 41, "And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John." Indignant is a good word. The 10 got angry because they felt like they James and John were trying to usurp them. "Who do you think you are? I'm just as worthy of that honor as you!" Do you see the pride?

Pride manifests itself in selfish ambition. Pride says, “I’m going to get mine at the expense of everyone else.” Pride says, “I will use any advantage I can to secure a better position for myself.”

In Matthew’s account of this incident, James and John have their mother with them, too. Their mother is Salome, the sister of Mary, the mother of Jesus.³ So, James and John are Jesus’s cousins. Their mom is Jesus’s aunt. So, they don’t hesitate to attempt to exploit a familial connection. They’re out for their own. Pride manifests itself in selfish ambition.

Pride also manifests itself in arrogant overconfidence. In verse 38, “Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?”³⁹ And they said to him, “We are able.”

Jesus said, “Listen guys, you don’t really know what you’re asking for. Do you really think you can do what I’m about to do?” And James and John say, “Yeah, we can do that!” Their arrogant overconfidence is outrageous. They literally believe that they can do the same things as Jesus. That’s wild, but that’s pride. It manifests itself in arrogant overconfidence.

Pride also manifests itself in bitter rivalry. The other ten weren’t about to let this slide. As far as I can tell, this moment started a public rivalry that lasted until Jesus’s death. In Luke 22:24, during the Last Supper, it says, “A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest.” We were in John 13 last week, where Jesus washed the disciple’s feet. They were in the room fighting over who was the greatest. In the presence of Jesus, they were jockeying for position. But this is what you see with leaders who are prideful. Their pride manifests itself as selfish ambition, arrogant overconfidence, and bitter rivalries.

Contrast that with Jesus. Jesus has the attribute of humility, and his humility produces the attitude of servant-heartedness. Watch his response in verses 42-45. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.⁴³ But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,⁴⁴ and whoever would be first among you must be slave^[e] of all.⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Jesus flips their cultural understanding of leadership. We talked about this in the *5 Things Leadership is Not* last week. Leadership is not about power and control. Leadership is not about making other people do what we want them to do. That’s the attitude Jesus is addressing here. Jesus says, “The Gentiles behave this way. They lord their position over others. But not you.

3. John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Mark 9-16* (Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2015), 105.

This is not how the Christian leads. In fact, if you want to be a leader, you have to be a slave to serving the people around you.”

Leadership is about serving people. It has nothing to do with my wants and desires. It’s a humble posture that says, “I want what’s best for you above all things, so I’m going to elevate you, even at my own expense.”

Humble leaders have an attitude of servant-heartedness that manifests itself as sacrificial service. That’s what Jesus says in verse 45, “Even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Jesus is the only person who ever existed who had no need to be humble but humbled himself anyway, and he sacrificed everything for us. That’s the mark of a humble leader. A humble leader stoops the lowest and elevates the highest. Humble leaders are not prideful.

I read a story about Ronald Reagan one time.⁴ He was talking about a speech he made in Mexico City. And he said, “After I had finished speaking, I sat down to rather unenthusiastic applause, and I was a little embarrassed. The speaker who followed me spoke in Spanish -- which I didn't understand -- and he was being applauded about every paragraph. To hide my embarrassment, I started clapping before everyone else and longer than anyone else until our ambassador leaned over and said, 'I wouldn't do that if I were you. He's interpreting your speech.'”

Listen, a servant-hearted leader is not concerned about their own glory. They are concerned about elevating the people around them. I want to be a leader in my home like that, where I’m giving myself away to see Alisha and the boys achieve their dreams. If they're successful, then I’m successful.

I want to be in a church with servant-hearted leaders. We’ve got a broken model in a lot of our churches where people come, and they give and give and give. They give their time, and they give their tithes, but they never get anything back from the church. The entire ministry of the church needs to be upended and turned inside out. The entire ministry of the church ought to be geared around one purpose, “How can we help each other become all that Jesus wants us to be?” That’s the church I want to be in. But to get there, we have to have humble leaders with a servant-hearted attitude who gladly sacrifice so others can be blessed.

Empathy that Stems from Love

Number three, the attribute of love produces the attitude of empathy. Leaders who love people default to a position of empathy when they deal with people. Their natural inclination is

4. Sermon Illustrations, “Pride,” accessed August 12, 2024, <https://www.sermonillustrations.com/a-z/p/pride.htm>

to try and see things from another person's perspective and to understand and share their feelings. They are not harsh with people. They are not short with people, even when the other person is blatantly wrong.

James and John are making an outlandishly arrogant request of Jesus. But his response drips with empathy. Jesus listens to their request. Jesus understands their hearts. He understands their desires and ambitions, even as wrong-headed as they are. And Jesus gently redirects them.

Jesus is a master of empathy. He always has compassion for people. He has compassion for our spiritual condition. Matthew 9:36 says, "Jesus had compassion for a crowd of people who were helpless and harassed, like sheep without a shepherd." These were people who were being abused by their own religion. They were being taken advantage of. Their religious leaders were getting wealthy at the expense of their souls. Jesus was grieved over that.

But his empathy goes even further. He has compassion for our physical condition. Matthew 14:14 says, "Jesus had compassion for a large crowd that was following him, so he healed the sick and fed 5,000 people." Jesus's empathy towards us isn't just for our spiritual state. Jesus cares about our physical needs and desires. The people were hungry and sick. He fed them and healed them. Our physical wants and needs are not a trivial thing to him. Your physical condition matters.

And so does your mental health. Jesus has compassion for our emotional condition. John 11 gives us the story of Lazarus's resurrection. Jesus loved Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. But one day, Lazarus got sick, and he was going to die without miraculous intervention. So, Mary and Martha sent for Jesus. And he waited until it was too late. He had a bigger plan for Lazarus, but they don't know that. And when Lazarus dies, Mary and Martha are broken. Their brother has died.

And then in John 11:33-35, you find something really interesting.

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ "Where have you laid him?" he asked.

"Come and see, Lord," they replied.

³⁵ Jesus wept.

³⁶ Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

Now, what's going on here? Why is Jesus weeping? He knows what he's about to do. He knows he's going to raise Lazarus from the dead. Why is he crying?

And I'll note that Jesus's weeping is different from the others, not only in function, not only in what he is weeping over but in form.⁵ The Greek word for weeping used in reference to Mary and the others has the connotation of loud wailing. They were lamenting loudly. The Greek word for Jesus's weeping is different. It has the connotation of silently bursting into tears.⁶

Have you ever experienced grief so great that you couldn't breathe? Have you ever experienced grief so great that it took your breath away and you couldn't make a sound? That's Jesus's grief. The text says that he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. Jesus was grieved to the core of his being, and it wasn't only because the people he loved were grieving. I believe Jesus looked back and forth down the corridors of time and saw all of the grief and brokenness that humanity would ever feel because of the effects of sin. It grieved him to the core, and he wept bitterly.⁷

Friends, never doubt that Jesus cares deeply about our physical, spiritual, and emotional well-being. He loves us, cares for us, and understands what we feel. That's an empathetic leader.

When leaders in our homes, churches, and communities are empathetic toward people, it creates an environment of trust and safety. When we know that we are loved and cared for, we feel safe to express ourselves. We know we'll be heard, understood, and taken care of.

Empathetic leaders create an environment of support and encouragement. Empathetic leaders celebrate our successes and provide encouragement during our failures. They're always there for us to pick us up when we're down. No one is happier for someone else's success than the leader with empathy. An empathetic leader is joyful over your elevation. That's Jesus. He has empathy that is produced by his love.

Resilience that Stems from Courage

Number four, the attribute of courage, produces the attitude of resilience. Refer back to verse 32. On the road to Jerusalem, Jesus gives his disciples a lesson on resilience. Jesus was walking just up ahead of them. He's on a mission to get to the cross. He's on a mission to bear the full weight of God's wrath for us. He's pulling all of his followers along with him.

5. D. A. Carson, *The Gospel According to John* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1991), 416.

6. John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: John 1-11* (Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2006), 466.

7. Andreas J. Kostenberger, *John* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 20024), 341.

There were more than just the 12 in this group. There was a large crowd.⁸ They're all anxious. The crowd is confused about why he's doing this and walking into such danger. The disciples, in particular, are astonished by this. They're amazed. They're flabbergasted. They're fearful. They're even a little fatalistic. They think all of them are about to die. So, they're somewhat confused about why he would do this.

Jesus senses this, and he pulls them off the side to help them prepare for what lies ahead, and he reiterates what is going to happen. Jesus says, "Listen, I'm going to be delivered to the chief priest. I'm going to be beaten, mocked, and brutally executed. But don't worry, I'm going to be resurrected."

Jesus has majestic courage. Remember, we said that the most common command in the Bible is some form of, "Don't be afraid." We're told over and over and over, don't be afraid, except in the case of God's wrath. Be afraid of that. You better be afraid of falling into the hands of a living God, Hebrews 10:31.

Jesus has the attribute of courage. He willingly submits to that for you and me. Courage produces an attitude of resilience. Resilience is the ability to withstand challenges and recover quickly from difficulties. It's a leader's capacity to persevere through trials and maintain focus on the mission.

At this point, Jesus's disciples don't have courage. They have false bravado, but they are cowards. Do you remember Peter in the upper room? He was arguing with Jesus, "I'm not going to deny you! They might, but not me!" That's bravado. You can have that when you're not under stress.

Then, they go to the Garden of Gethsemane, and Jesus is about to be arrested. In the greatest act of cowardice in the history of mankind, all the disciples abandon Jesus and run for their lives. Peter goes so far as to curse, swear, and deny he ever knew Jesus. That is a lack of resilience produced by the missing character trait of courage.

Someone who lacks resilience is easily overwhelmed, struggles to handle stress and adversity, and their life is marked by avoidance. They will always avoid challenges and difficult situations. They'll run away. They'll hide. Someone who lacks resilience will always have a negative outlook. In the church, I call these people spiritual Eeyores. "Oh, woah is me. The sky is falling. Everything is awful. Everything is wrong. They don't have any resilience.

They focus on failures rather than learning from them. Listen, you're going to fail as a father. You're going to fail as a mother. Pastors fail. People fail. It's what we do. Can you learn from your mistakes, get back up, and try again? That's resilience.

8. MacArthur, *Mark 9-16*, 92.

Contrast that against Jesus. Jesus was singularly focused on achieving the most brutal task in the history of mankind. There was no adversity he wouldn't plow through. There was no obstacle he would overcome. And there was no barrier that would hold him back.

That's one of the many lessons he had to teach his disciples. They lacked courage. Because of their lack of courage, they lacked resilience. The good news is they learned, and you can, too.

Peter and John learned it. In Acts chapter 4, after being arrested and threatened for preaching about Jesus, they continued to proclaim the gospel boldly, demonstrating resilience in the face of persecution. Paul learned it on his missionary journeys. Paul endured beatings, shipwrecks, and imprisonments, yet he remained steadfast in spreading the gospel across diverse regions. Stephen learned it. In Acts 7, despite facing hostility, Stephen remained resolute in his faith, even to the point of martyrdom. They bashed his head in with rocks. All throughout the Bible, God's people developed courage as they learned to trust him. As a result of their courage, they were resilient in the face of horrifying persecution. The point is this: Leaders must have an attitude of resilience.

No matter what happens as a father, you're not going to quit your marriage or give up on your children. No matter what obstacles women may face, don't quit. Don't give up. Don't stop pursuing your God-given roles and dreams. It does not matter how many times you told to stay in your lane. You stay in God's lane. Leaders have resilience.

Diligence that Stems from Perseverance

Number five, the attribute of perseverance, produces the attitude of diligence. Look at verse 45. "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

I don't think we fully appreciate how difficult a task Jesus accomplished for us. Do you know what Hebrews 4:15 says? "We do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin."

There is nothing in this life that we go through that is unique to us. Jesus experienced it all. We see Jesus tired. We see Jesus exhausted. We see Jesus in need of an escape or a break. We see Jesus broken and grieved. We see Jesus suffer. Jesus faced every temptation that we face. But we never see Jesus stop his singular pursuit to give his life as a ransom for many. For 33 years, Jesus never quit. He never hit the pause button. And he never faltered.

When you have the attribute of perseverance, you face challenging situations with diligence. Leaders with diligence are grinders. They get up every day and go to work. And believe me, I get it. Some days, you don't feel like putting work in.

I've worked in the secular world, and I've worked in the ministry world. I can say that ministry isn't different than any other job. In fact, it's more difficult to have diligence in ministry than it is in a secular job. There's no time clock to punch. There's very little accountability. I don't have a boss. I can do whatever I want to do.

This is why so many pastors get the lazy label. In my experience, that label is earned. I have never seen a single pastor who was a grinder who carried the label lazy. These are guys who get up every morning. They go to the office. They love and care for their people. And they put in the work. I've never seen a guy do that and be called lazy.

I was talking with one of the DOMs I work with one day about this. I can't work from home. Some pastors have to do their sermon prep from home because the office is so busy. People drop in all the time, and they always say the same thing. "Hey pastor, you got a minute?" What they mean is, "Do you have an hour just to hang out and shoot the breeze?" So, some guys have to study at home so they can be available in the office. I can't do that. I can't focus at home.

So, I would go to the office around 6 A.M. every morning, seven days a week. That would give me a good three hours to study and pray before people started dropping in during the week.

Well, I was talking about it with my DOM friend, and he said that for a while, he had to work out of his home office, which was in his basement. He said his wife and kids would laugh at him and make fun of him because he would get up every morning, shower, shave, and put on his suit to go downstairs to the basement. But he said he had to do it to be disciplined when working from home.

That's diligence. Diligence is the mental discipline to get up every day and do what's necessary to be successful. And it only comes from the attribute of perseverance.

A lot of people think they're diligent because they get up and go to work, and that's a good thing. You ought to get up and go to work. But would you have that same level of diligence if you didn't have a time clock to punch or if you didn't have a boss to hold you accountable? That's when it becomes a character issue.

But it doesn't matter where you're at. Leaders who lack diligence have inconsistent preparation. They are very rarely prepared for situations the way they should be. They neglect their responsibilities, procrastinate, have poor follow-through, and are disorganized.

You can lead anything like that. Do you want to be in a home like that? Do you want to be in a church like that? Businesses and organizations in the community don't last very long if the leader lacks diligence. They go bankrupt.

Jesus got up every day, and he put in the work to accomplish redemption for you and for me. If he had ever taken a single second off, he would have failed. That's an attitude of diligence to the max. That's Jesus.

Conclusion

But you can see that no matter what happens in Jesus's life, he has the highest character. His character produces his attitudes towards the situations, ideas, and people around him. And his attitudes shaped his actions. That's how you lead like Jesus.

Friend, do you know that you can trust him? You can trust what he said. When he said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the father but by me," you can trust that. There is no other name under heaven by which we can find redemption.

You can trust what he said, and you can trust what Jesus did. You can trust that he died for our sins. You can trust that he rose from the dead. Jesus is trustworthy.

He's also compassionate towards us. He cares about you. He cares about your soul. He cares about your eternity. He also cares about your present. He wants you to have a joy-filled life. He wants to bless you.

And he'll never stop. Paul says, "I am confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it out to completion." Jesus is relentless in his pursuit to love you, to save you, and to bless you. It does not matter where you've gone or what you've done. No one is beyond the bounds of God's grace, grace that is personified in Jesus.

That's the kind of leader I want to follow. And that's the kind of leader I want to become. My wife deserves that from me. My boys deserve that from me. You deserve that from me. Who deserves that from you?

I have to tell you, your attitudes will determine your actions. I learned that lesson years ago when I was doing that young mother's MRI. I sat there for about a half-hour and listened to her kids laugh and play. I had a bad attitude when they came in. As a result, I dealt harshly with them. But when I knew their life was about to be turned upside-down, my perspective shifted. My attitude changed, and so did my actions. I couldn't give them a lot, but I could give them few more minutes of happiness. Do we have the same attitudes as Jesus when we deal with people?