

# Teaching Subject: Jesus the Greatest Leader

Originally developed by Matt Morgan, September, 2006

If you were to look at history up to the present day, who would you say has been the greatest leader of all time? By leader I mean the person who has left the greatest legacy, the person who has multiplied their vision the most.

Answer: Even speaking pragmatically you would have to agree that Jesus is the greatest leader that ever lived. Greater than Bill Gates or Warren Buffet. Greater than Ghandi or Michael Jordan, and yes it's true, it may be hard to believe but even greater than Michael Jackson.

Well what made Jesus so great? What caused him to be the best leader that has ever existed, that has left the greatest legacy? Let's go to the text to find out. (assign readers before getting started)

1. Vision: Luke 4:14-21
  - a. Kingdom of Heaven here on earth now! A good leader needs a crystal clear vision
  - b. Central Vision statement = Kingdom of Heaven/God (+200 times in scriptures)
  - c. What would the world be like if they were truly free? No longer, oppressed, blind, ill, etc
  - d. v.21 - Imagine sitting in the synagogue hearing that the Kingdom of God has NOW been fulfilled! This is what the Jews have been waiting for since Abraham. His vision was Audacious. Vision is usually so much smaller. His was nuts!

## 2. Focus (Mark 1:35-39)

- a. what do you notice about Jesus' leadership in this passage?
- b. Look at the focus, look at the boundaries – knowing exactly what he was supposed to do
- c. Had he lived in fear of others opinion he would have gone to them
- d. Good vs. Best
- e. Distraction/temptation was everywhere (not Satan but his own disciples) but he did not budge

## 3. Recruit (Luke 5:1-10)

- a. What do you see in this passage that reveals Jesus insatiable leadership?
- b. He called Peter to FOLLOW. A leader must recruit!
- c. what do you think a good leader should look for in a disciple? (Character, Competence, Chemistry)
- d. Notice how he puts Peter to the test.
- e. Jesus' most common command = "follow me"

## 4. Tyranny of the Urgent (Matthew 5:1-2a)

- a. Does anyone see what Jesus is doing here?
- b. He did something completely anti-intuitive = he pulled away from the crowd and focused on a few.
- c. We live in a world that believes we must appease a crowd. Heck we may even love the crowd because it makes us look and feel good. Jesus faced seasons when the crowds pressed in and it seemed urgent to teach since they wanted to be taught. Yet Jesus has remained focused on his central vision as well as his strategy to get there. Though at times he taught the crowds, he realized that he would accomplish incredibly more by focusing on a few rather than the masses.
- d. Let me stop for a moment and ask – What makes a great leader?
- e. If a leader is about you being great you have it all wrong. A greater is about helping others be greater than you. This is why Jesus spent so much time with the twelve.

5. Strategy: (Luke 9:1-6)

- a. His strategy = experience. Jesus pushed them into the deep end. Why is this a great leadership tactic?
- b. (v.18-27)
- c. After sending them out he brings them in to first ask questions of their experience. Then he teaches them. He was constantly recalling/teaching them. Even in this passage they didn't understand him. It wasn't until Acts where they grasp the Kingdom of God. He taught as they did life together, not in a classroom setting. He used teachable moments to focus them.

6. Multiplication (Luke 10:1-24)

- a. Went from 12 to 72 to 144. Perhaps Jesus had each disciple recruit 6 people.
- b. v.17 Joy is caught! If you don't find the thing you're supposed to do, you are giving up Joy! Settling for less is trading that joy. Satan gets thrown down, vision is accomplished person by person and the kingdom of God gets established.

7. Temptations: You can't lead like Jesus if you are driven by fear. 3 Main types of Fear

- a. Pain – you try to create an environment to prevent pain (safe, comfort zone)
- b. Failure – filled with self doubt “what if I can't do it?” (disablement)
- c. Rejection – consumed with the opinions of others.