

Leadership lessons from the life of Peter

JEROME LIBERTY

**“And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” -
Matthew 16:18**

Foreword by Dr David Molapo

About the author

Jerome Liberty, a businessman, born in Port Elizabeth, South Africa is an exceptional leader who believes in developing leaders towards greater effectiveness. Since 1994 he has facilitated Victory in Finance workshops, educating business as well as church leaders. Billionaires-in-training Conferences is another platform he uses to teach on finances and business. His mentorship originates from the Bible, from where he draws inspiration, but also from reading great books.

His teachings have changed the destiny of many leaders, both in church and in business circles.

His powerful testimony in business is an inspiration to many.

He is an evangelist at heart and he believes that the restoration of the people should be seen in the prosperity of the city. Leadership according to Godly standards does not only liberate an individual, but a whole nation.

Thank you to:

- My wife, Eunice, my son Jeremy and my daughter Janice, who have been a great help and source of inspiration;
- My dad, Graham Liberty, who has inspired me in many ways and who has modeled “the Rock” to me.

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“Reach for the top, the bottom is overcrowded!”

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F o r e w o r d

This book offers sound and practical advice on how to achieve one's divine destiny as a leader. **Jerome Liberty's book blends smart practice with the intelligent articulation of how to get the journey started.**

"Leadership lessons from the life of Peter" is an invaluable and extraordinary book. It lays out a simple step-by-step process by which anyone can discover, develop and demonstrate their leadership potential.

The art of effectively leading and planning ahead is often overwhelmed by the mundane and routine pressures of life. **"Leadership lessons from the life of Peter"** will empower you to avoid the mistakes of this great disciple, whilst also enabling you to learn from those very mistakes.

Jerome has penned an easy to read, practical and challenging book. He has succeeded in teasing out the complicated aspects of Peter's character and depicted them in a simplistic manner that allows us to learn from this close companion of Jesus Christ.

If you are serious about your role as a leader, or that of those who serve on your team, this book should be read. I feel inspired in leadership at home, in the workplace and also in the community. I would surely recommend this book as a reference for those who wish to lead and live a lasting legacy.

Dr David Molapo
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Introduction

Leadership is a complex subject that cannot be separated from our daily lives. Different people speak differently about the concept leadership. My intention is to add to the existing body of knowledge on leadership, by focusing on Peter, a great leader of biblical times. The focus will be on his most undesirable attributes and a progressive development towards that which eventually becomes his destiny, great leadership – from Simon Peter to Peter the Rock. I will attempt to demonstrate how leadership can be developed and the momentum sustained by the application of biblical truths to daily life.

Jesus' first words to Simon Peter were: "Come, follow me" (Mark 1:17).

Jesus' last words to him were: "Follow me" (John 21:22).

When Jesus met Peter, he was a fisherman and he would later become a fisher of men, and one of the great leaders of his time.

Peter and his brother Andrew were fishermen at the Sea of Galilee. They went into a business partnership with James and John. The scriptures tell us how Peter stepped out of the boat and walked on the water to Jesus. His boldness and strong sense of independence led to him to act impulsively on more than one occasion.

He is the same disciple who pulled out a sword to defend Jesus when he was arrested in Gethsemane. He would later become a leader in the church after Jesus' departure from the earth.

1. Lessons to be learnt from the life of Peter

- We learn that enthusiasm has to be backed up by faith, otherwise it fails. It is also better to be a follower who sometimes fails than one who fails to follow.
- When Jesus entered Peter's life, the fisherman became a new person with new goals. When Jesus chose his followers, he wasn't looking for models; he was looking for real people. Peter's life reminds us that God uses those unlikely to be used.

Leadership in the market place is primarily about influence

- **The market place is driven by profits.**
 - ✓ The market place is controlled/manipulated by influence.
 - ✓ Leadership is exerted by influence.
 - ✓ Influence can be exerted by what you give, (i.e. wages, recognition, rewards, comforts) or what you take away or training.

Leadership in ministry is primarily about servanthood

- **In ministry life is measured by purpose.**
 - ✓ In ministry leadership is modeled by servant hood.
 - ✓ Whoever would be the greatest will be the one that serves.
 - ✓ It is not wise to use carnal methods of influence to build a ministry leadership team.

1.1. We get to know two sides of Peter:

- (a) The Peter who was impulsive, yet slow to understand the things of the kingdom.
- (b) Peter the Apostle (in Acts) - firm and courageous; ready to go to prison and die, and the preacher of the faith.

1.2. His strengths and accomplishments

- Became the most recognized leader among the disciples – 1 of the three.
- He was the first great voice of the gospel during and after the Pentecost.
- He wrote first and second Peter.
- He knew Mark and gave him information for the Gospel of Mark.

2. Facts about Peter

“I have mentioned in a previous book that the “man, his lady and his money” cannot be separated in the equation of success. Your attitude towards your lady and your money will determine the success of your leadership.” – Jerome Liberty

A leader has the ability to draw followers to him.

- 2.1) **Peter was married and his wife accompanied him on at least some of his missionary journeys. This is explained by the following scripture:**
 - “Don’t we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord’s brothers and Cephas, and that is Peter” - 1 Cor 9:5
- 2.2) **His mother-in-law is referred to in Matthew 8:14:**
 - “When Jesus came into Peter’s house, he saw Peter’s mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever.”
- 2.3) **He was always placed first in ranking and in his standing relationship with Jesus – every ministry raises such a son and ambassador:**
- 2.4) **He had a strong sense of independence, was direct, and had an impulsive manner.**
- 2.5) **It is he who utters that notable profession of faith:**
 - “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Draw maximum benefit from every failure.

- 2.6) **Peter had once boasted that, regardless of what others might do, he would follow Jesus to the death.**
 - **“Peter replied, “Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.” – Matt 26:33**
 - After Christ told the disciples that they would flee for their lives when He was arrested, tried and killed, **Peter boasted that he would never stumble** (Matthew 26:33) even if everyone else did, that even if he had to go to prison and die for Jesus he was willing to do so (Luke 22:33; Mark. 1:29).

Yet he fell asleep when Jesus asked him to watch and pray, and he also denied him three times.

- 2.7) **In his affection and self-confidence, Peter ventured to reject as impossible the announcement of the sufferings and humiliation which Jesus predicted, and heard the sharp words:**
- **“Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.”** So often we become a stumbling block by not allowing godly leadership to help chart the course to effective leadership.
- 2.8) **On the day of Pentecost, Peter, as the spokesman of the apostles, preached a remarkable sermon which resulted in the conversion of about three thousand souls.**
- 2.9) **Tradition says he died in Rome and that he was crucified upside down:**
- Peter felt unworthy to be put to death in the same manner as his Master, and therefore, at his own request, he was crucified with his head downward.
- 2.10) **He later became a leader in the church after Jesus returned to heaven.**

3. Keys of the kingdom of heaven

- **Jesus gave the keys of the kingdom of heaven to Peter so that he could unlock the gates of hell and set the captives free.**
- **Peter used them in three places in the Book of Acts:**

The ability to influence others and develop their leadership skills, unlocks the gates to various possibilities to them and they are thereby set free from their prisons of “I can’t” and that is replaced with an “I can” attitude. A great leader has access to drawing out the best value from those who are his followers.

3.1) Opening the Kingdom to the Jews

- Peter who explains to the Jews that their King Jesus is on the throne and that in Him and in all who believe in Him, the Kingdom of Heaven has arrived (Acts 2:30-36).
- Peter explains in his sermon that the coming of the Holy Spirit indicates that the rule of God on earth had arrived (Acts 2:17-21).

3.2) Opening the Kingdom to the Samaritans

- In Acts 8, Philip **preaches the gospel** to the Samaritans, and unclean spirits are cast out of people, and the lame are healed (Acts 8:7).
- When the apostles hear about this, they send Peter and John to Samaria to **use the keys of the kingdom to open the gates of hell which imprison the Samaritans.**
- Peter does this in Acts 8:17 with **the laying on of hands** so that the Samaritans also receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

3.3) Opening the Kingdom to the Gentiles

- Peter **opens the door to the Gentiles** (Acts 10:24-48). A Gentile named, Cornelius, summons Peter, and after **Peter explains the gospel to him and his family**, they believe. The Holy Spirit comes upon them all.
- **Peter had fulfilled his task; he had opened the doors of the kingdom so that the gospel could be preached to all people.**
- His position as leader causes him to be endowed with keys. The keys are given to one man only.

4. Peter's activities during Jesus' ministry

He was transformed from a fisherman to a “fisher of men”:

- “Then He said to them, “Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.” - Matt 4:19

Peter was one of the most important of Jesus' twelve apostles:

- “After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.
- “After he put them all out except Peter, James and John, he went in where the child was.” See (Mark 5:41-42).

Jesus calls Peter his “rock”:

- **“And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” - Matthew 16:18**

His “frontier mentality” made him as quick on the draw of a sword when he cut off the soldier, Malchus' ear:

- (John 18:10-11) “Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear.
- (The servant's name was Malchus.) Jesus commanded Peter, “Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?”

Peter had once boasted that, regardless of what others might do, he would follow Jesus to the death.

- “Peter replied, “Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.” – Matt 26:33

Peter was allowed to join Jesus during the miracle of walking on the water:

- “Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.” - Matt 14:29

Peter along with James and John, witnessed the Transfiguration:

- “After six days **Jesus took with him Peter, James and John** the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.”
- ² There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.
- ³ Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus
- ⁴ Peter said to Jesus, “**Lord, it is good for us to be here.** If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.”
- ⁵ **While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”**
- ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified.
- ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.”
- ⁸ **When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.**
- ⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them,

**“Don’t tell anyone what you have seen, until
the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”
- Matt 17:1-9**

Peter had a large house at Capernaum where, along with his own family, his brother Andrew and mother-in-law also lived. His mother-in-law is referred to in Matthew 8:14

- “When Jesus came into Peter’s house, he saw Peter’s mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever” - Matt 8:14

5. Key truths in the relationship between Jesus and Peter

- “In every relationship, God wants us to show love, dedication, and high moral standards.” - Prov 10:1

5.1) Jesus prophetically calls Peter to a new way of life and living as a fisher of men.

- (Matt 4:19) “Then He said to them, “**Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.**”

Great leaders are made by their willingness to follow.

5.2) Peter is one of the “inner-circle” – in the top hierarchy with James and John.

- (Matthew 10:2-4) “These are the names of the twelve apostles:
- **first, Simon** (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.”

5.3) The three disciples are singled out to spend extra time with Jesus:

- (Matthew 10:2-4) “These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John;
- ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;
- ⁴ ***Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.***”

5.4) Jesus renames Simon. He knew that Simon was not yet the rock (*petros*), but needed to be shaped and trained into that character and role.

“And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” – Matthew 16:18

- 5.5) A key purpose, therefore, for Jesus in his relationship with Peter is to accomplish this training so that Peter becomes the rock, able to fulfill his calling as a “fisher” of men.
- 5.6) Jesus takes them with him on special assignments. They receive the privilege of seeing the raising of the Synagogue Ruler's daughter from the dead, witnessing the Transfiguration, and keeping watch with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane:
- (Mark 5:41-42) “He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cumi!” (Which means “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”). Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). **At this they were completely astonished.**”

The leader will always provide mentoring and special training to potential successors.

(Matthew 17:1-3) “After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

- ² **There he was transfigured before them.** His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.
- ³ just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.”
- (Luke 22:39-40) “Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him. When He came to the place, He said to them, **“Pray that you may not enter into temptation.”**

5.7) **Jesus took Peter to see the glory on the mount; to see his fight with life and death.**

“And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into a high mountain apart.” - Matthew 17:1

A leader will only allow those whom he has a special relationship with to get very close to him and even see another side of him that is not revealed to the public.

5.8) **Jesus took Peter with him to the house of the synagogue leader to demonstrate to him the power to raise the dead. He asked everyone else to leave and entered the room where the child was only with Peter, James and John:**

- **“He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cumi!” (Which means “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”)**
- **Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished.” - Mark 5:41-42**

Jesus demonstrated to them that he had power over death, however I doubt whether they fully understood the lesson as the Bible does not mention so. In business it is not wise to reveal to everyone your full strength.

- 5.9) Peter also has a one-to-one question-and-answer session with Jesus about the Temple tax and has the privilege of hosting Jesus.
- 5.10) Although Satan has asked to sift all the disciples (the Greek “you” is plural), Jesus has prayed for Simon that his faith will not fail.

Leadership is a liberating process, not only for one’s own benefit, but for the benefit of all those who choose to follow you.

- 5.11) Peter boasted about his loyalty to Jesus. When Jesus announced he was going to a place where his disciples would not be able to follow, Peter declared:
- “Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.”
 - After Christ told the disciples that they would flee for their lives when He was arrested, tried and killed, Peter boasted that he would never stumble (Mt. 26:33; Mk. 1:29) even if everyone else did, that even if he had to go to prison and die for Jesus he was willing to do so (Lk. 22:33; Mk. 1:29).
- 5.12) A crucial moment in the relationship between Jesus and Peter is Peter's confession in Matthew 16:16:
- “Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”
- 5.13) As a spokesperson for the disciples, Peter made a significant proclamation which resulted in Jesus endowing him with a key role in the Kingdom of Heaven:
- “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” - Matthew 16:19
- 5.14) Jesus reaffirms Peter as the rock because he understands who Jesus is.

“And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” - Matthew 16:18

5.15) When Peter rebukes Jesus for talking of dying, Jesus’ response is sharp and immediate **“Get behind me Satan!”** Jesus said this only to Peter and Satan himself.

- “But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.” - Matthew 16:23

5.16) Peter's strength of character was also an asset. On one occasion we see Jesus seeking to channel it towards a deeper faith:

“Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.” - Matthew 14:29

5.17) The disciples have encountered a storm and have been battling heavy weather for many hours. When Jesus appears they see what they believe to be a ghost approaching. Peter’s instinct is to get to where Jesus is. Jesus does not condemn but seeks to encourage his faith:

- “Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.
- ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.
- ²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”
- ²⁸ **“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”**
- ²⁹ **“Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.” - Matthew 14:25-29**

Great leaders have the ability to draw out hidden potential from their followers and to stretch them in doing what they would not do under normal circumstances.

5.18) Peter's question "Lord, if it's you, tell me to come to you on the water" should be read as a statement of faith.

- This "getting-out-of-the-boat" faith that Peter displayed is precisely the kind he will need later in his role as leader.

5.19) **Jesus predicted Peter's denial:**

"Jesus answered him, "Will you lay down your life for My sake? Most assuredly, I say to you, the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times." - John 13:38

5.20) **Although Jesus was aware of Peter's shortcomings, that knowledge did not prevent him from recognizing the potential leader in him. Peter was not disqualified on the basis of his shortcomings.**

Expressed faith can be acted on. Many times people encounter a call to walk on the water. Trust and confidence in your leader will enable you to walk on water." – Jerome Liberty

5.21) **The denial of Jesus happened shortly after Peter had tried to fight for Jesus as he was arrested:**

- "Having arrested Him, they led Him and brought Him into the high priest's house. But **Peter followed at a distance.** - Luke 22:54-56
- Now when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the courtyard and sat down together, **Peter sat among them.**
- And a certain servant girl, seeing him as he sat by the fire, looked intently at him and said, "This man was also with Him. But he denied Him, saying, "Woman, **I do not know Him.**"

In leadership you should not allow superfluous flaws to cloud the real value in people on your team.

5.22) Peter bitterly repented for this lapse:

- “And the **Lord turned and looked at Peter**. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” So Peter went out and wept bitterly.” - Luke 22:62

5.23) Jesus was concerned about Peter at the trial because he would be the only disciple to betray him in public.

- One should not be naïve in business. Leave room for disappointment as no human being is perfect.

5.24) Jesus does not directly confront Peter with his sin, but rather asks a piercing question:

- “Simon, son of Jonah, **do you love Me more than these?**” - John 21:15

5.25) Jesus addressed Peter not as “Peter” or even “Simon Peter” but as “Simon son of Jonah.” This form of address was designed to bring three important historical occasions to Peter’s mind:

- The first thing that this address would bring to mind was Peter’s original call to be an apostle by Christ.
- The next incident that the name Simon would call to mind was Peter’s great confession of Jesus.
- The final event that Peter would think of was the Savior’s warning to Peter in Luke 22:31-32: “And the Lord said, ‘Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.’”

5.26) Peter's restoration

He will come through his ordeal and become the rock he should be:

- (Luke 22:32) “When you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen, and build up your brothers.”

First time failure does not mean that your man does not have it all together. Make room for a second chance.

5.27) Peter experiences emotions from Jesus' third repetition of his question "Do you love me?"

5.28) Jesus gives Simon Peter a second chance. This time, he succeeds. Jesus tells him he also will be given another opportunity to make good on his willingness to "follow" Jesus even to death.

5.29) His "frontier mentality" causes Peter to be quick in drawing a Roman sword when he cut off the soldier Malchus' ear:

- (John 18:10-11) "Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear.
- (The servant's name was Malchus.) Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! **Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?**"

5.30) As a great leader you should be prepared to drink the cup, whatever the flavor.

6. Lessons to be learnt

6.1) Peter ignored Jesus' prediction.

“Peter said unto him: Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also, said all the disciples.” - Matthew 26:35

One should always be aware that your key person has influence over those above whom you have placed him. *The Law of EF Hutton* by John C Maxwell might apply and he could send out the wrong message, whilst being your spokesperson. While he is recorded as having kept a safe distance from Jesus' trial; the Bible does not reveal the whereabouts of the other disciples.

6.2) He rebuked Jesus when he spoke about dying:

- ²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.
- ²² **Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.** “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” – Matthew 16:21-22

While receiving sound advice is an advisable thing, one should be aware of a leader who might distract you from the real course of action.

Peter boasted and made himself greater than others.

6.3) **Peter boasted that he would never stumble (Mt. 26:33; Mk. 1:29) even if everyone else did, that even if he had to go to prison and die for Jesus he was willing to do so. (Luke 22:33; Mk. 1:29)**

6.4) **He leaned on his own strength:**

- Pride is damaging to character. If you lean on your own strength and courage as Peter did, you invite disaster.
- Peter had to learn that he should expect his own strength and courage to fail him.
- He had to learn that he had limitations.
- He had to learn that he would only be successful when he trusted in God.

The company you might select to keep might just be the wrong one at a given moment in time. Beware that you do not give up solid relationships for shallow associations.

- When Jesus called the disciples he promised to make them. . .
- In order to achieve greatness a leader cannot make him. Someone else has to make him.
- Mentoring and influence usually come from the top and from outside of a person.

6.5) **He warmed his hands with sinners:**

- ¹⁵ Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard,
- ¹⁶ but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the servant girl on duty there and brought Peter in.
- ¹⁷ "You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?" she asked Peter.
- He replied, "I am not." ¹⁸ It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. **Peter also was standing with them, warming himself.**" - John 18:15-18

7. Leadership lessons from the life of Peter

Lesson 1: The call: I'll make you into something you've never been before.

- **“Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.”** - Matthew 4:19
- **“Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?”** - Matthew 19:27
- **“I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”** – Phil 3:14

The size of the call will develop the size of the man

- **“Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, God does not call us because we qualify, but He qualifies us for the call”** – Heb 3:1

Moses is a clear example that God does not call us because we are perfect.

Any man that had a Jesus encounter had a radical change in his life.

“Follow me; I’ll make you a fisher of men.”

- He will make you into something that you’ve never been before.
- Man can only follow at this level of leadership if he is ready to forsake all.
- Call those who serve close to you, personally.
- It is dangerous to have men that you have not called personally, to follow at this level.
- The qualification is “inside the call”.
- What is his response to the call?
- When God calls you to something he calls you away from something.
- Are they ready to bid farewell to the known and to step into the unknown?
- Men that do not serve well cannot lead well.
- He gave them power to empower themselves for the task at hand.
- He rebuked and corrected them; He stopped their preaching when they missed the mark.
- In your closet you experience inner turmoil, inner fights as well as your glory, your victories, your breakthroughs and your great successes.

When He announced His death, they were bothered with who would take over His ministry:

- **“let it sink into your ears the son of man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men” – Luke 9:44**

Test the heart of man at every level:

- A man’s heart will leave the organization long before he actually does - Denial Test
- His heart will leave first, then his money will follow his heart and then he will follow.

Requirements for the call:

- At leadership level (12) tithing, soul-winning and spiritual warfare are not optional.
- The inner circle - they are close enough to assassinate you.
- **You need men that can draw a sword if needed - Peter was no match for the Roman army, but he still drew the sword to protect.**
- Peter could defend well in public risking his life yet failed the test in a private conversation with a servant girl – Heart / Denial test.
- They are handpicked - continuous screening is necessary.
- The strength of any leadership is determined by the weakest leader in the team.

“A man’s heart will leave the organization long before he does.” - Denial test

QUOTES

- **“You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough.” - Mae West**

Lesson 2: Positional leadership: A position that is earned

- "Successful leadership is not about being tough or soft, sensitive or assertive, but about a set of attributes. First and foremost is character" - Warren Bennis

Peter is one of the inner circle - in the top hierarchy with James and John:

- "Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; **The first, Simon, who is called Peter**, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;" Matthew 10:2
- "And after six days Jesus taketh **Peter**, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into a high mountain apart." - Matthew 17:1
- "And he took with him **Peter** and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy." - Matthew 26:37

Peter was always placed first in his relationship with Jesus:

- Within the twelve he ranked in the top three.
- Every ministry raises such a man/ an ambassador.
- This position is earned - a position that is close enough to help and close enough to assassinate you - a position of long term relationships.
- Position does not change the condition of a man's heart - the wrong man in this position can mean the end of the ministry or an institution.
- Have clear criteria for the man that fills this position.
- Test him on a regular basis - heart qualification is the most important qualification for this position - when his heart fails everything fails.
- At this level he speaks on your behalf – wherever he shows up, you show up.

Can he be trusted with your weaknesses and your successes?

- These are lifetime relationships at this level.
- They are tested relationships and a man that cannot be tested cannot be trusted.
- They can be trusted with your anointing.
- They can be trusted with your glory, your Gethsemane; your death and life!

QUOTES

- **“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.” - Psalm 23:1**
- **“I may not have gone where I intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I needed to be.” - Douglas Adams**

Lesson 3: Walking on water: Is he ready to walk on water at your command?

We are all familiar with the story of Peter walking on the water. As we study this miracle it is evident that there's just as much for to learn from the disciples who stayed in the boat as there is from Peter, who got out of the boat and walked on the water:

- “And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou; bid me come unto thee on the water.” - Matthew 14:28

Most of us would like to be more like Peter who stepped out into the stormy sea of life and walked towards Jesus:

- It is also true that at times we are also like the disciples who stayed in the boat - in a place of relative safety and security – our comfort zones.

Success

1. The greatest enemy of success is security and comfort.
2. One learns more in the valley than on the mountain.
3. Growth is rapid and exponential when one is under attack.
4. Good is the enemy of success.
5. Many desire security, but is there success in security? The people with maximum security are now in prison as an inmate with a life sentence.

Those who choose to stay in the boat can easily spend their lives watching others experience great moments with God.

Peter grabbed the opportunity to walk on water!

- Faith, loyalty, and great love and affection for Jesus motivated Peter to step out of the boat on that stormy night.
- If you stay in the boat, you will forever be on the sidelines witnessing others do great things for God.
- If, however, you step out of the boat, you will experience great things in God in your life.

The greatest enemy of success is security and comfort.

It is important to call a man into leadership that knows how to walk on water:

- Test the load carting ability of every leader around you.
- If he can walk on water he can walk with you in any doubtful situation.

They needed their business partners James and John, to come and pull the full nets in because both boats were so filled with the fish that the weight of them threatened to send them both to the bottom of the sea:

- “So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.” - Luke 5:7

QUOTES

- “It is better to trust in God than to put confidence in man.”
- Psalm 118:8

Lesson 4: Paternity test: Does he have your DNA?

- “Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?
- Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet.
- Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not; thou hast no part with me. Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.” - John 13:6-9

Peter, although slow at times, gets a revelation regarding his role as a leader. He identifies that the feet, the hands and the head of a leader have to be pure for the sake of the wellbeing of the followers.

In verse eight there is a paternity test. At this level of leadership there must be a DNA testing - the behaviour and conduct will reveal the true DNA of your leadership:

- **Perform a paternity test to see if you are his father before you allow him into leadership at “Peter’s” level.**
- **At this level they don’t associate for the reward of wages but for the reward of an inheritance.**

Their behaviour and conduct will reveal the true DNA of your leadership.

- The test was: let me wash your feet get rid of the dust of all your old paths; old destinations never to walk in again.
- Let me take away the history and give you a future.
- Does he have your DNA?
- This is not a position for a hireling, but for someone with the right heart and qualifying DNA.

QUOTES

- “A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children.” - Proverbs 13:22
- “Any man can be a father, but it takes a special person to be a dad”
- Listen, my son, to your father’s instruction...” - Proverbs 1:8

Lesson 5: Eternity test: In your words he finds his own future

- “Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life.” - John 6:68

In your words he interprets eternity; in your words he finds his own future.

After the crucifixion he ran straight into the tomb - to inspect it - looking for Jesus:

- ³ So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb.
- ⁴ Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.” - John 20:3-4

Peter ultimately requested to be crucified upside down as he is not worthy to be crucified like His savior.

- “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.” – John 6:63

Peter trusted the word of Jesus – from day one he followed the word when Jesus said come:

- “When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, “Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” – Luke 5:4

“Peter knew that Jesus and His Word could not be separated and that all power was vested in the Word of Jesus Christ.”

Peter took the boat into the deep and cast his net. He then caught so much fish, he had to call another boat to help bring them in:

- “A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.” – Luke 5:7

In leadership the highest criteria is trust

- When trust is broken leadership fails.
- Peter had trust in the word of Jesus as if his life depended on it.
- Without any procrastination he obeyed.
- Peter knew he couldn't lean upon the arm of flesh. He had no future, for the words of Jesus were the words of eternal life.
- When men no longer believe your word they will no longer follow you.
- If they don't believe what you're saying they will no longer obey.
- Peter interpreted not only his life, but his eternal destination in the words of Jesus Christ.

Trust is earned

- It takes a trusted long-term relationship to build something that leaves a legacy.
- Shallow, short term relationships have not been tested and can therefore not be trusted.
- Every time a relationship gets shipwrecked, we hit ground zero.
- It takes a life time to build a solid relationship.
- When high level leadership relationships fail, the flock gets scattered.

QUOTES

- **“Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”- Luke 6:38**

Lesson 6: The test of life and death: What is he ready to live for? What is he ready to die for?

- “Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?” - John 18:10-11

Peter was ready to die:

- He stood up man alone with a single sword against the whole Roman army to defend Jesus.
- The test is if he will defend you at the cost of his own life.
- Peter did not stand a chance against the Roman army still with only one sword he attacked Malchus to protect Jesus.
- Peter was firm and courageous, ready to go to prison and to die for his Master.
- His “frontier mentality” made him quick on the draw with a Roman sword when he cut off Malchus' ear.

There are a few lessons to be learnt from this incident:

1. He was now willing to lay down his life.
2. Be careful of him who draws the sword too quickly.
3. Test the load carting ability of every leader around you.
4. The load test is to gauge how much weight you can bear as a leader.
5. Jesus said: “Take up your cross and follow me.”

Lesson 7: Do you know me? Only when he discovers who you are will he discover himself

- “And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” - Matthew 16:18

**He asked his disciples: “Who do the people say that I am?” -
The real test was: Do you know who I am?**

- Peter, do you know me? For if you know me I can tell you who you are!
- Many followed me for years in leadership but their actions revealed that they followed yet they didn't know me.
- If you know me and I know you then - the gates of hell shall not prevail!
- Does he know who you are? Only when he discovers who you are will he discover who he really is.
- Paul declared that “I may know him in the power of his resurrection.”

The strength of any leadership is determined by the weakest leader in the team.

If you want to test the healthiness of any organization or any ministry – put the thermometer in the mouth of the leadership.

“Then He returned and found the disciples asleep. He said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Couldn’t you watch with me even one hour?”(NLT) Mark 14:37

“And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour?” (ESV) Mark 14:37

- Men’s heart fail at any level – therefore it’s imperative to frequently test the heart of men.
- Strangers cannot build a great team.
- There is a price tag to kingdom covenant relationships.
- I have learnt in ministry that people connect with “the man” before they connect with the ministry of the man.

Therefore you can only follow at this level if you know the man:

- “And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.
- And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.
- And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
- And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.
- Then he charged his disciples should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ. - Matthew 16:16-20

“Be careful who you take along in your hour of agony.”

- Trust is earned by being faithful in small things.
- Very few men should be trusted with your signature.
- Keys allow you access; authorized access.
- There are very few men who can be entrusted with free access into your life.
- When Jesus went to pray, he took with him the three; Peter, James and John.
- Many are able to share in your successes; very few can see your weaknesses and still remain faithful.
- He invited the three and excluded Judas, because a Judas at such a meeting can have damning consequences.

At Gethsemane Jesus was in a place of fighting for his life and in need of intercessory protection over his life, but all his disciples were asleep. Although all three were sleeping, Jesus addressed Peter only:

- Peter is one of the “inner circle” - in the top hierarchy with James and John.
- “And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into a high mountain apart.” - Matthew 17:1
- Peter again named first in priority.
- “And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy.” - Matthew 26:37

Illustration as interpreted from Mark 14: 37-42 in the Message Bible:

Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon, he said to Peter, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? " (Mark 14:37)

1. Jesus addressed Peter only.

Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." (Mark 14:38)

2. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.

Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. (Mark 14:39-40)

3. Leaders will always be drawn into a place of complacency.

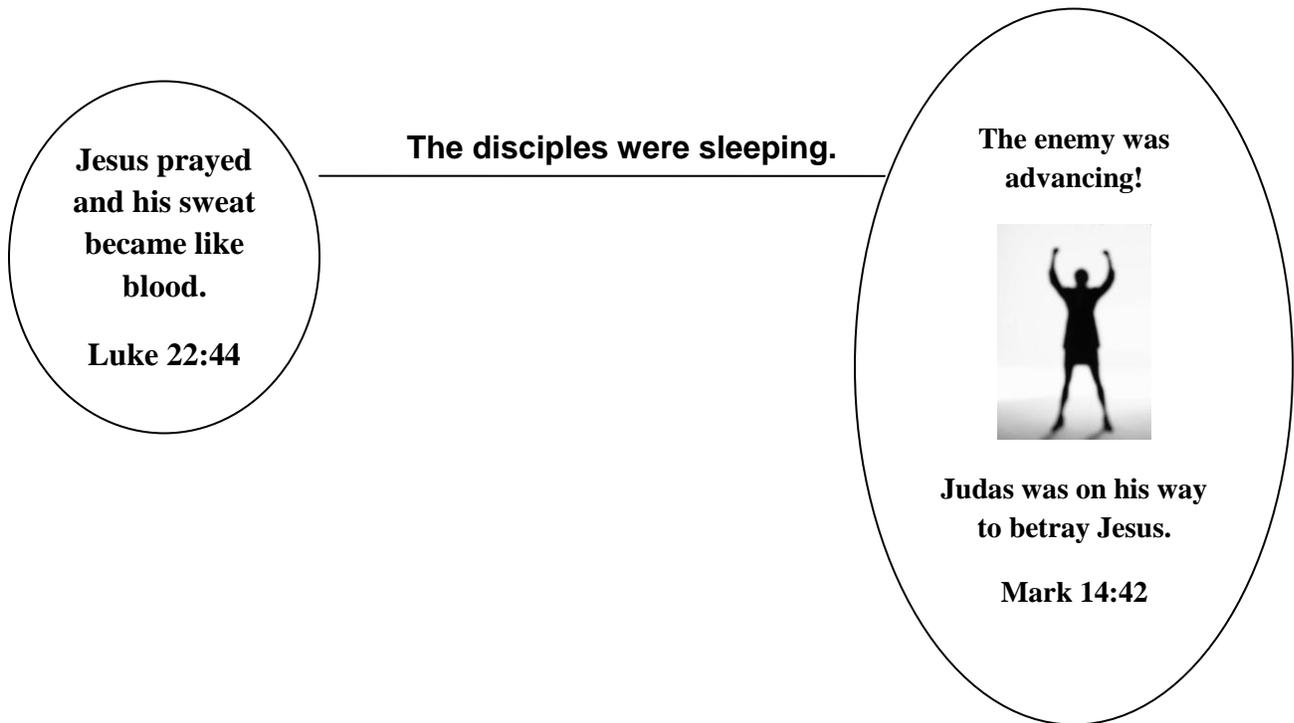
They did not know what to say to him. Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. (Mark 14: 41)

4. They fell asleep for the third time.

5. They fell asleep three times and Peter denied Jesus three times.

Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!" (Mark 14:42)

6. Jesus identified his betrayer; Judas.



“True relationships are tested when the tide turns. As long as the weather is fair, you have everybody’s support. However, following you when wading in deep waters is not everyone’s option. A place of comfort becomes much safer.”

QUOTES

- “See thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before vain men.” - Proverbs 22:29
- “There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.” – Albert Einstein

Lesson 8: The sleep test: Does he fall asleep while you're fighting for your life?

- “And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy.
- Then saith he unto them, my soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.
- And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.
- And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?
- Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. - Matthew 26:37-41

The Bible says they were sleeping: Jesus had been praying for strength in the Garden of Gethsemane, but Peter had fallen asleep (Mt 26:40). When Jesus found Peter and the others: “And said unto them, why sleep ye? Rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.” - Luke 22:46

QUOTES

- The important thing is this: To be able at any moment to sacrifice that which we are for what we could become. – Charles DuBois
- Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall. - Confucius

Lesson 9: The money test: Who do you trust with your finances?

- “And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute?”
- He saith, “Yes.” And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, “What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers?”
- Peter saith unto him, of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, then are the children free. Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, **go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money:** that take, and give unto them for me and thee.” - Matthew 17:24-27

So strange that Judas handled the finances, yet in order to get the fish with the money he sent Peter, the tested and trusted man with integrity.

Maybe Peter was preferred above Judas because he was an experienced fisherman.

Anyone entrusted with financial responsibility should be a man of unquestionable integrity!

“Anyone entrusted with financial responsibility should be a man of unquestionable integrity.”

At every level, men’s heart fails because of finances. If you cannot be trusted with money, you cannot be trusted with anything else.

I have asked many a leader: “Whose image is on your coin?” There are a few basic money tests every leader must pass, because the position of the treasure reveals the condition of the heart. Whilst many are loyal when they are broke, so few are faithful when money shows up.

Every currency that leaves your hand leaves with your fingerprint, because what you love and what you believe, you will fund.

If you send Judas to your “ocean” to catch your “fish” with your “money,” Judas would dry up the ocean with the hope of finding money in every fish.

Four tests for money:

1. **Tithe test:** Malachi 3:10
The tithe test is to tithe in good times and in bad times.
2. **Love test:** 1 Timothy 6:10;
Your love for money will reveal hidden idols. This love makes the greedy person greedier. Money will multiply greed, lust, stinginess and generosity at every level.
The love for money has pierced many with sorrow and no one is exempted.
3. **Wisdom test:** Matthew 25 speaks about the faithful and wise servant. Many are faithful, but few are wise.
4. **The greed test:** “A man’s life does not consist of the abundance of things that he possesses.” Money is the cheapest currency in the earth. Anything money buys, is cheap. The problem with greed; once you have started on it’s diet, you cannot feed it anything else but greed; up to the point of self-destruction. Greed and the building of wealth on lies are like deadly viruses – they both lead to sure destruction. Both of them cannot be fed anything else but greed and lies.

There are two questions I would ask myself before I would commit responsibility to any person:

- Does he have the skill?
- Does he possess the integrity to handle the responsibility?

QUOTES

- “For Wisdom is a defence and money is a defence.” - Ecclesiastes 7:12
- “In the morning, sow your seed and in the evening, withhold not you hand; for you know not which one will prosper.”

Lesson 10: The heart / denial test: Heart condition is more important than skill

- “And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But **I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.**
- And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.
- And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.
- And he said unto them, when I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye anything? And they said, nothing.” - Luke 22:31-35

What betrayed the heart condition of Peter we might never know, but Jesus knew beforehand that Peter would deny him.

Many denied me - not one has taken me by surprise though; somehow by their none-verbal communication I was alerted to the forthcoming denial.

Much is said by their silence.

Peter’s denial had something to do with personal needs being met:

- “When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, **lacked you anything?** And they said nothing.” - Luke 22:35
- Even so he went ahead with the denial.
- Heart condition is more important than skill.
- Paul gathered sticks and laid them on the fire and a snake came out - One way to test loyalty is to make a fire.
- Peter all your needs were met and more; why Peter, why would you deny me?
- “I have taken good care of you.”

Heart condition is more important than skill.

“Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age:

- **“Homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields - along with persecutions - and in the age to come eternal life.” - Mark 10:29-30**

You have received a 100-fold since you followed - you were a struggling-for-survival fisherman - see where I have brought you from:

- **“Peter lacked you anything? Why will you deny me?”**

Some truths

- Strangers cannot deny you.
- The pain of denial is the worst pain ever.
- Denial is not supposed to happen in a trusted relationship.

QUOTES

- **“He that observes the wind shall not sow” - Ecclesiastes 11:4**
- **“When one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us.” - Alexander Graham Bell**

Lesson 11: Launch out into the deep: Real relationships are tested in deep waters

- “Now when He had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.
- And Simon answering said unto Him, Master, we have toiled all night, and have taken nothing; nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.” - Luke 5:4-5

Real relationships will offer advice on how to multiply your strength.

There are men following you now that will never go into deep water - unless you command them to:

- “Now when He had left speaking, he said unto Simon, **Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught...**” - Luke 5:4

Leadership is tested in real life-threatening conditions.

Command them into deeper waters:

- **How deep will he go before he cries for help?**
- **Leadership is tested in real life-threatening conditions.**
- **You will never know who follows until you encounter a storm.**
- **A tornado comes to town to test the foundations of buildings that look good in good weather.**
- **Only those that can stand the storm can share in your glories.**
- **All relationship looks healthy in shallow waters.**
- **You cannot catch big fish in shallow waters.**
- **Many cracks are hidden under the “anointing”.**
- **Smiles can cover a lot of hatred.**
- **Shallow relationships cannot build anything significant.**

QUOTES

- **“The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it.” - Proverbs 10:22**
- **“Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the little voice at the end of the day that says I'll try again tomorrow.” - Mary Anne Radmacher**

Lesson 12: The rebuke test: Can the leader take your correction and still follow?

- “But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.” - Matthew 16:23

Jesus rebuked Peter with words he only used to rebuke Satan himself:

- “Get thee behind me, Satan...”

You will only know who really follows after you have corrected them.

When rebuked most hearts fail.

Can you take the rebuke and still follow? Many can take your prophecies and your blessings but cannot take your correction:

- “My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor detest His correction;” - Prov 3:11
- “Harsh discipline is for him who forsakes the way, and he who hates correction will die.” – Prov 15:10
- “Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him.” – Prov 22:15
- “Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die.” – Prov 23:13

You will never know people until you correct them

- In leadership men must be able to take your rebuke.
- Only those that can stand the storm can share your glories.
- Jesus only said these words only to Satan and to his right hand man, Peter.
- Many can receive your counsel, your blessings, your prophecies and draw from your wisdom, but very few can take your correction!

You will only know who really follows after you have corrected them.

QUOTES

- **“The person who says something is impossible should not interrupt the person who is doing it.”**
- **“Great minds discuss ideas. Average minds discuss events. Small minds discuss people.” - Eleanor Roosevelt**

Lesson 13: Who leads your leaders – Discover who is the leader of the pack

- “The task of leadership is not to put greatness into humanity, but to elicit it, for the greatness is already there.” - John Buchan

Every ministry gives birth to a leader of the pack.

“For the strength of the pack is the wolf, and the strength of the wolf is the pack.” – Rudyard Kipling

Discover who is leading your pack:

- As a spokesperson for the disciples, Peter made a significant proclamation which resulted in Jesus endowing him with a key role in the Kingdom of Heaven:
- **“I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” - Matthew 16:19**

The leader of the pack sets the benchmark for future leaders.

He will set the benchmark for others to follow - others will emulate him:

- “Peter said unto him, though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. **Likewise also, said all the disciples.**” - Matthew 26:35
- It’s always great to have such a man, providing he says the right thing and they follow the right thing.
- Disaster strikes in leadership if a leader says the wrong thing with confidence and everybody follows.
- He is an influencer at the highest levels of leadership – they say what he says.
- The law of E.F. Hutton says, “When the real leader speaks, people listen”.
- The investment firm of E. F. Hutton is famous for its catchy advertising slogan: "When E. F. Hutton talks, people listen." The commercials would show people stopping whatever they were doing the moment someone would casually say, "Well, my broker is E. F. Hutton, and he says..."
- Peter was the leader everybody not only listened to, but they said what he said.
- “Peter said unto him, though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee.
- **Likewise also, said all the disciples.**” - Matthew 26:35

QUOTES

- “In the business world, everyone is paid in two coins: cash and experience. Take the experience first; the cash will come later.” - Harold Geneen
- “Confidence comes not from always being right but not fearing to be wrong.”

Lesson 14 (a): The inner circle: The top three of your inner group

- “And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy.” - Matthew 26:37
- “Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; **The first, Simon, who is called Peter**, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;” Matthew 10:2
- The scripture says: “He took with him” Peter, then the two sons of Zebedee. The names of James and John are not mentioned – it just refers to “the two sons of Zebedee”. The focus is on Peter, “the rock”.

When the prayer encounter was over, they were all sleeping, yet Jesus said “Simon, why sleepest thou?”

The Bible says they were sleeping: Jesus was praying for strength in the Garden of Gethsemane, but Peter had fallen asleep (Mt 26:40):

When Jesus found Peter and the others: “And said unto them, why sleep ye? Rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.” - Luke 22:46

They are given the privilege of seeing the raising of the Synagogue Ruler's daughter from the dead, witnessing the Transfiguration, and keeping watch with Jesus in Gethsemane. These were privileged meetings of glory: Gethsemane and the raising of the dead. Only the three were chosen to see this:

- These encounters I believe can only be exposed to trusted and tested relationships.
- Peter is one of the “inner circle” – part of the top three with James and John.
- Only one of the three can deny you; disown you; betray you; or even assassinate you!
- They can be asleep while you are fighting for your life, while you are prevailing in prayer – Prayer test.
- When facing death you need to be very selective who stands close to you.
- Judas did not qualify for this meeting.
- Being surrounded by the wrong men during your fight for life and death could lead to premature death.

After Christ told the disciples that they would flee for their lives when He was arrested, tried and killed, Peter boasted that he would never stumble (Mt. 26:33; Mk. 1:29) even if everyone else did, that even if he had to go to prison and die for Jesus he was willing to do so (Luke 22:33; Mk. 1:29).

Some men have the capacity to break your spirit - to the extent that you lose the vision/focus/passion/will to fight so much so you die before your time and will have to wait many years for your own funeral - dead yet still alive.

- Be careful who you take with to your closet, your glory and your fights with life and death.
- Your closet – your place of inner turmoil/inner fights; your glory; your victories; your breakthroughs; your great successes.

In the leadership profile of Jesus there was a clear ranking/hierarchy:

- Starting with the 500 that witnessed Jesus' resurrection.
- The 120 that was empowered in the upper room.
- The 70 that was sent out two by two.
- The twelve that was personally called.
- The three "that was handpicked".
- The one – Peter, "the Rock".

Being surrounded by the wrong men during your fight for life and death can lead to premature death.

In ministry or business it takes time to navigate through the ranks from the 500 to the three:

- Everybody that walks into your life starts at the 500 - very few ever make it to the top three.
- At this level one needs to ask if he can handle both your flaws and your success.
- Peter not only qualified for the ranking in the three; he was always first in line.

QUOTES

- "Where there are no oxen, the crib is clean but much increase is by the strength of the ox." - Proverbs 14:4
- "We are what we pretend to be, so we must be careful about what we pretend to be." - Kurt Vonnegut

Lesson 14 (b): The inner circle:

Close encounters

- **“And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into a high mountain apart.” - Matthew 17:1**

Don't take anybody to a high mountain; this is a place for only those who “earned” it by their character.

Many can survive low altitudes, but very few can live on a mountain.

The higher the altitude, the thinner the air and oxygen levels – this can cause blackouts.

Few can scale the mountain and live to tell the tale.

Let's take a closer look at the encounter on the mountain: Moses and Elijah showed up representing the apostolic and the prophetic.

Every leadership needs an encounter with the apostolic and the prophetic; as in a man of structure and order and one that speaks frankly into your life!

How can you ever sleep when the apostolic and the prophetic shows up?

- **Therefore, be very careful of men who are complacent and in a slumber.**
- **They were high on the mountain whilst at the bottom of the mountain there were demonic activities.**
- **The rest of the disciples could not cast out a demon - but the three were high up experiencing the extra-ordinary, yet Peter requested that three huts be built for accommodation. What the three did not realize was that Jesus was letting them in to His secret, his eminent death or change of position. Peter sees the opportunity as one to erect a memorial in order to capture the pleasure of the moment. Sometimes leaders try and find a way of avoiding change.**

There are men in leadership that seek glory positions, but will not get involved with the real issues when the fan hits the fire.

God had to show up with a personal rebuke to bring them to their senses saying: “This is my beloved son, hear him!” Meaning “I have just had enough of you, hear my son!”

- **“Go and tell no man...”** As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, **“Don’t tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”** - Matt 17:9

Wow, what a reprimand! Imagine you are part of such a Godly encounter and you can’t tell anyone!

There are some encounters that are not for “public consumption”. Who can you trust with your Godly encounter?

Too many of leadership cannot be trusted with a mountain experience - they walk away from the experience and believe they have a right to brag about their experience. They use your name in vain to their benefit and for self-enrichment in order to gain access into other relationships for which they do not qualify.

The next encounter with the three was the death and life experience with a dying little girl in the book of Mark:

- **“While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader.**
- **“Your daughter is dead,” they said. “Why bother the teacher anymore”** Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, **“Don’t be afraid; just believe.”** - Mark 5: 35-36

Jesus went to the house of Jairus, but did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John. Jesus came to the home of the synagogue leader and said:

- **“Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.”**

After he put them all out except Peter, James and John, he went in where the child was:

- **“He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cumi!” (Which means “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”).**
- **Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished.” - Mark 5:41-42**
- Jesus requested everyone to leave except Peter, James and John; because not everybody in your leadership is ready to see the dead raised - lest they sabotage the experience of the encounter.
- The removal of doubt and unbelief is imperative to release faith.
- I wonder what the attitude and reaction of the rest of the disciples were when they were sent out of the house just to hear a few minutes later that the dead girl was alive.
- Did Jesus spare them their own humiliation, because of their unbelief?

In summary if you ever face a life and death situation, make sure you have men around you that are not scared of dying:

- Peter facing the whole Roman army with a single sword and James and John ready to call down fire from heaven.
- It is only when you have been through the valley of the shadow of death that you can ask: “death where is your sting?”

QUOTES

- **“Your most unhappy customers are your greatest source of learning.” - Bill Gates**

Lesson 15 (a): Partnership: The real test is when money shows up

- ⁶“When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.
- ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.” - Luke 5:6-7
- Many business ventures fail because of no partnership or partnership with the wrong person. Timing is very important in partnering.
- When the nets started to break, they signaled for partnership. This has helped him to capture the whole catch. A partnership should multiply you and not divide you.
- A word of caution – it does not mean when somebody speaks in tongues that you are equally yoked with that person.

At the right time when their nets began to break, he beckoned / signaled for their partners that they should come and help:

- This was such a wise decision – the perfect timing to seek partnership - a partnership that could save the whole catch.
- Peter realized that his limited capacity would fail and the loss would be too great.
- It is best to share the spoil rather than lose it all.

Be careful whom you call into partnerships - there are few people whom you can trust with a harvest:

- “A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.” – Luke 5:7

Many are loyal when they are broke. However, the real test in business is when money shows up!:

- “Plans succeed through good counsel; don’t go to war without wise advice.” - Proverbs 20:18

There are few people whom you can trust with a harvest.

Peter knew who he could call on for a partnership:

- This action/behavior of Peter is a powerful lesson in business.
- Call on trusted and tested partnering: *“A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish...”*
- Call on help when your capacity fails – *“which were in the other ship”* meaning they had capacity to multiply your life.

QUOTES

- **“To be successful, you have to have your heart in your business, and your business in your heart.” - Thomas Watson, Sr.**
- **“I have found no greater satisfaction than achieving success through honest dealing and strict adherence to the view that, for you to gain, those you deal with should gain as well.” - Alan Greenspan**

Lesson 15 (b): Fundamental truths in business partnerships

Ensure that the intended partnership can increase your capacity.

- 1) **Partner not with strangers.**
 - Anything that is good has an enemy.
- 2) **No contract can protect you from evil men:**
 - I have learnt that people can hate you without a cause; some never met me but hates me.
 - The greater the possession, the greater protection is needed in business.
- 3) **Ensure the intended partnership can increase your capacity.**
 - Your weakness and limitations will be revealed to you by your enemy.
- 4) **Most partnerships are “till death us do part” or “until debt us do part”.**
- 5) **Make sure this will not result in your premature death - then you will still have to wait many years for your own funeral - meaning when the partnership turns bad you lose the will to fight back.**
- 6) **The right partnership can multiply you; the wrong partnership can destroy you:**
 - A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.
- 7) **In partnership character is more important than skill.**
 - The enemy have disregard for anything or anyone else: they exploit people as slaves for personal gain.
 - Proverbs tells us we can be rich in our finances if we are diligent in our work.

QUOTES

- **“See thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before vain men.” – Proverbs 22: 29**

Lesson 15 (c): Pitfalls in business

In my experience, when people experience financial difficulties, it is frequently because they have unknowingly violated one or more of God's financial principles. Some examples of these violations include:

- Having no savings for an emergency; “The wise have wealth and luxury, but fools spend whatever they get. (Proverbs 21:20)
- Taking on too much debt (enslaves you). “Just as the rich rule the poor, so **the borrower is servant to the lender.** (Proverbs 22:7)
- Co-signing a loan, for which the Bible uses the words “striking hands in pledge”. This is actually intercessory. Jesus became our co-signatory when He died for us on the cross. **“It’s poor judgment to guarantee another person’s debt or put up security for a friend.”** Proverbs 17:18 “Don’t agree to guarantee another person’s debt or put up security for someone else. If you can’t pay it, even your bed will be snatched from under you. (Proverbs 22:26, 27)
- Getting involved in a financial transaction they do not understand: **“Enthusiasm without knowledge is no good;** haste makes mistakes. People ruin their lives by their own foolishness and then are angry at the Lord.” - Proverbs 19:2)
- “Send your grain across the seas, and in time, profits will flow back to you. But **divide your investments among many places,** for you do not know what risks might lay ahead.” - Ecclesiastes 11:1-2

QUOTES

- **“Our major obligation is not to mistake slogans for solutions.” – E. Murrow**
- **“Hire character. Train skill”. - Peter Schutz**

Lesson 16: He followed at a distance: When men change their seating place, their heart condition changes

- “But Peter followed him at a distance, right up to the courtyard of the high priest. He entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome.” – Matthew 26:58

Some truths

- Peter was the disciple first in rank.
- He was the spokesperson who has seen it all in ministry.

Peter, a man who were given the keys to bind and loosen:

- “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” – Matthew 16:19

Peter promised to die for the cause of Christ:

- After Christ told the disciples that they would flee for their lives when He was arrested, tried and killed, **Peter boasted that he would never stumble** (Matthew 26:33; Mark. 1:29)
- Even if everyone else did, that even if he had to go to prison and die for Jesus he was willing to do so (Luke 22:33; Mark. 1:29).

Whilst many will follow at a distance in ministry it is not expected from the right hand man to follow at a distance.

Many a man speaks loud through non-verbal communication:

- Listen to what every man is saying through his silence.

It would be very wise to monitor the positional placing of all the men in your leadership especially if they were once close.

- A change in the natural position will betray a shift in the heart condition.
- When men change their seating place they change their place in the heart condition as well.

I have seen through the years how many who enjoyed the front seats (an honored place) - then slowly moved towards the back (row by row) - in a subtle way of trying to find the back door.

Peter used to be so close; he could wash the feet of Jesus. At some point he followed at a distance. (Matthew 26:58)

A man's heart leaves a ministry before he actually does:

- One thing is sure; when he no longer follows that close, his heart is failing.

Peter said “we left all and followed thee” what a sacrifice, but now by choice he follows at a distance.

The initial call from Jesus was:

- “... Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” - Matthew 4:19

Jesus had every intention to make of Peter a “somebody”. This however required Peter to follow close enough:

- “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.” – John 10:27

Peter used to be so close... At some point he followed at a distance. (Matthew 26:58)

- Did it place him within hearing distance of the voice of the master?
- What is the distance between you and Him?
- Is that distance widening?
- Is there an unexplainable gap?
- Does he show up when the call demands his presence?

Excuses: “He entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome.” - Matthew 26:58

- Who is he keeping company with? Is it for the purpose to see your demise?

Many rejoice in your fall than in your success.

Many forgot that as a leader at your command their lives prospered:

- When they were struggling you commanded them to cast their nets on the other side.
- You exposed them to the other side they never knew - and since then life has never been the same.
- How can they now sit with strangers to see your fate - why do they now follow at a distance?

Many rejoice in your fall than in your success.

The signs of danger are the following distance between you and him.

- Check the radar and plot: the men around you and see if they are following at a distance.
- Strangers can't deny you; only those close to you.
- When men follow at a distance denial is inevitable.
- Unlike betrayal that gains reward for the act - denial is to disown for convenience.

QUOTES

- “It is better to be hated for what you are than loved for what you are not.” - André Gide
- “See thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before vain men.” – Proverbs 22: 29

Lesson 17 (a): Peter warmed his hands with sinners

- ¹⁵ *Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, ¹⁶ but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the servant girl on duty there and brought Peter in.*
- ¹⁷ *"You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?" she asked Peter.*
- *He replied, "I am not."*
- ¹⁸ *It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. **Peter also was standing with them, warming himself.**" - John 18:15-18*

We read in the book of John that "as they led Jesus to the high priest" Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. He sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire."

We can note from this incident (John 18) that it was a cold night when Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane:

- In the presence of Jesus the multitude warmed their hands.

Many followers prefer to follow Christ to the outer courts, a place of comfort where they can still keep an eye on Jesus and yet still warm their hands by the fire:

- They still keep far away enough that an affiliation with Him will not cause them harm, discomfort, or hardship.

I have seen through the years how many who enjoyed the front seats (an honored place), slowly moved towards the back (row by row), and in a discreet manner trying to find the way to the back door.

QUOTES

- "I don't pay good wages because I have a lot of money; I have a lot of money because I pay good wages." - Robert Bosch
- "Professionalism is a frame of mind, not a paycheck." - Cecil Castle

Lesson 17 (b): The dangers of warming your hands in the wrong company

Peter warmed his hands comfortably assuming that nobody would recognize him - but his face was lit up (exposed) by the light of the fire.

- You will be exposed if you walk in the counsel of the ungodly:
- The fire did not only warm, but it threw light on him and ultimately exposed him.
- When a Christian associates with the ungodly, his sin will be exposed.
- I have observed how bad men did wrong for years and were not discovered.
- A true man of God will certainly be detected!

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful...” – Psalm 1:1

“He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed.” – Proverbs 13:20

Good manners and habits formed over many years can be corrupted in one single conversation or moment.

If you spend long enough time in bad company it will contaminate you.

- “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.” – 1 Cor 15:33

Why did Peter stand there among them warming his hands? Not because he was unsympathetic to his Master:

- Peter was in a terrible state of mind that night.
- He went up to the fire because he thought he must act as others did, so as to escape suspicion.
- And as they warmed their hands, he did the same as to appear as one of them.
- As I remarked earlier: I have observed that bad men may do wrong for years and not be discovered, but a man of God will be certain to be detected!

You will be exposed by that same fire that warms your hands:

- Peter revealed himself by the twitches of his face in the firelight.
- It is better keep to your own company.
- Never go where you will be ashamed to be seen.
- A city set on a hill cannot be hid! A lighted candle must be seen
- The infinite love of Christ is enough to warm our hearts.

Don't be tempted by the fire in the outer court:

- To live in comfort, all it takes is the warm fire in the outer court, but you will be exposed!

Good manners and habits formed over many years can be corrupted in one single conversation or moment.

QUOTES

- **“Make the workmanship surpass the materials.” – Ovid**
- **“There are so many men who can figure costs, and so few who can measure values.” - Author Unknown**

Lesson 18: The ultimate test – Do you love me?

In John 21:15-17 we follow the conversation between Jesus and Peter:

- ¹⁵ When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “**Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?**” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “**Feed my lambs.**”
- ¹⁶ Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “**Take care of my sheep.**”
- ¹⁷ The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “**Feed my sheep.**” – John 21:15-17

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” - Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.”

- He was actually saying: I am appointing you, Peter, to do my ministry.

Three times Jesus asks Peter “Do you love me?”

- I believe the real question was “Do you still love me?”
- Or even “How much do you love me?”

The greatest test of love is to protect:

- Peter answers: “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”
- Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”
- Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”
- Again Peter answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”
- Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”
- The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”
- Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?”
- Peter said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”
- Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.”

The Greek word for love is “agape”. This translates in English to “self-sacrificial love”

- It’s the kind of love that Jesus has for us. It's the kind of love that Peter had claimed to have for Jesus.
- Peter is unable to say, “Yes, Jesus, I love (agape) you.” Instead, he says, “Yes, Jesus, I love (philia) you.”

Philia translates “brotherly love”.

- Jesus lets him off the hook with this question, “Peter, do you love (philia) me?” Peter's response is: “You know all things; You know that I love (philia) You.”
- And, Jesus answers again, “Feed my sheep” which is a profound statement: Jesus asks that we love him and feed his sheep.

The message is:

- If you really love me, feed my lambs until they become sheep.
- Are you willing to nurture and mature them?
- The test of leadership is “Do you love me enough that I can trust you with lambs/sheep?”
- I believe in leadership we should ask this at every level (to every leader), and really evaluate the response.
- “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear has torment. He who fears has not been perfected in love. We love Him because He first loved us.” - 1 John 4:18-19

QUOTES

- “Make the workmanship surpass the materials.” – Ovid
- “There are so many men who can figure costs, and so few who can measure values.” - Author Unknown

Lesson 19: Forgiveness test – Forgive at every level

- ²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”
- ²² Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.” - Matthew 18:21-22

Forgiveness is a key concept in relation to our salvation:

- The Oxford English Dictionary defines forgiveness as “to grant free pardon and to give up all claim on account of an offense or debt”.

Forgiveness does not come easy for most of us. We naturally do not overflow with mercy and forgiveness when we've been wronged.

Our heavenly father will forgive us in the measure we forgive others.

The Bible instructs us to forgive as the Lord forgave us.

I believe forgiveness is a choice we make through a decision of our will, motivated by obedience to God and his command to forgive.

The dangers of unforgiveness

- Unforgiveness opens the door to bitterness, hurts, rebellion, etc.
- You will hurt more than the person you need to forgive.
- Unforgiveness is a device of the enemy to rob you of the joy of salvation.
- Maturity in leadership means having capacity to forgive those that harm you as a reward for the good you have done in their lives.
- Offense is inevitable at this level of leading.

Scriptures on forgiveness

You will hurt more than the person you need to forgive.

- ²⁵ And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, **forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.**” Mark 11:25
- ¹² **And forgive us our debts,** as we also have forgiven our debtors.
¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
¹⁴ For **if you forgive other people** when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.
¹⁵ But **if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.**” - Matthew 6:12-15
- “Bear with each other and **forgive whatever grievances** you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” - Colossians 3:13

Peter was bold enough to confront Jesus on the subject of forgiveness that was challenging to him: How many times must I forgive?

- **“Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.” - Matthew 18:22**

Can we ever come to a place where we can say: “This is it, I have had enough?”

Love covers a multitude of sins, the Bible says:

- **“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.” - 1 Peter 4:8**

Forgiveness is an aspect of love, and as Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13, “Love keeps no record of wrongs.”

Two biblical examples of forgiveness

- Joseph forgave his brothers for selling him as a slave to passing Midianites. (Genesis 37:18-36). Joseph freely forgave his brothers (Genesis 45).
- The second example is Jesus. Perhaps the best known incident is his response to the soldiers who maltreated him at the cross:
- “Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing... “ - (Luke 23:34)

The parable of the unmerciful servant

- Jesus told Peter a parable to illustrate forgiveness. A forgiven servant refused to forgive another servant and was punished by his king as a result there of. He was punished for not showing mercy to his fellow-servant.
- The king represents God who is marked by the two features of justice and mercy. The first servant depicts a legalist with an unchanged heart. Instead of reaching out to help those who were indebted to him, he proceeded to demand his rights from them.
- The second servant depicts a true believer who asks the false believer for mercy and does not receive it.

Summary

- We read in Matthew 18:23-35 about a servant who owed the king 10,000 talents. This man’s debt was infinite, and he was absolutely incapable of paying it. The king commanded that the servant, his wife, his children, and all he owned be sold to cover the debt. The man fell down before the king. “Be patient with me,” he begged, “and I will pay back everything.”

- The king was moved with compassion and released the man and forgave him all his debt.
- In Matthew 18:28 we see the forgiven man looking for a fellow servant who owed him 100 denarii. Compared to his infinite debt, this was nothing! But when he found the man, he grabbed him, choked him and demanded his money.
- This man also fell down and begged for patience. But the forgiven servant was not moved by any kind of compassion.
- The great king was told about this wretched man's cruel behavior. "Then the master called the servant in. "You, wicked servant," he said, "I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy just as I had on you?"
- Then the master dealt with the unforgiving man according to law instead of mercy. "In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed."
- Jesus made this stunning declaration: "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart." (Matthew 18:32-35)
- Jesus had answered Peter's question: "You have received unlimited mercy from God through me; therefore, you must demonstrate unlimited mercy."

QUOTES

- "If we really want to love we must learn how to forgive." – Mother Teresa
- "No man can climb out beyond the limitations of his own character." - John Morley

Lesson 20: Peter was silent when he was supposed to defend his Master

- “Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.
- But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected,
- "Why weren't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages."

He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief. As the keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put in it.

- "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me." - John 12:1-8
- We know that Mary Magdalene had lived a troubled life before Jesus freed her from seven demons.
- She was probably the only person who understood, better than even the disciples, why Jesus was going to die, and accepted Jesus' coming death.
- She anointed Jesus's body a week before his crucifixion.
- She was privileged to be the first to see Jesus as the risen Lord.
- Peter probably kept silent because he knew Mary's position was closely ranked to his.
- Peter was probably angry with Christ for acting like a Messiah when He was not the Messiah.
- Peter was probably angry with himself for being taken in, for being deceived, by a false Messiah.

Lesson 21: The women provided for Jesus and his disciples out of their means

- **“Soon afterwards Jesus went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities...” - Luke 8:1-2**
- **These three verses in Luke give us a glimpse of the broader role of women in Jesus’ ministry beyond the home.**
- **The gospel records that a band of women accompanied Jesus and the twelve apostles.**
- **They were a diverse group of women; some were known sinners, others were from rich or prominent families.**
- **Unlike the apostles, who took great pride in being the chosen twelve, these women did not seek position or asked for special privileges.**
- **Jesus had touched them so deeply that they were grateful to do anything for him.**
- **They were grateful to do even menial services.**
- **They brought their gifts and resources to Jesus to use as he saw fit.**
- **These women are just a few of the people behind the scenes in Jesus’ ministry.**
- **The ministry is often supported by those whose work is less visible but just as essential.**
- **The Greek word translated as resources can mean property, possessions, resources, or means.**
- **They illustrate what “good soil” looks like.**
- **These women financially supported Jesus and his ministry from their own finances.**
- **It comes just before Jesus telling the parable of the seed that fell on paths, and rocks, and among thorns and some into good soil.**

Seven personal qualities found in a good leader: These qualities can be developed or may be naturally part of their personality

- **A good leader has an exemplary character.** It is of utmost importance that a leader is trustworthy to lead others. A leader needs to be trusted and be known to live their life with honesty and integrity.
- **A good leader is enthusiastic about his work or cause and also about his role as leader.** People will respond more openly to a person of passion and dedication. Leaders need to be able to be a source of inspiration, and be a motivator towards the cause.
- **A good leader is confident.** In order to lead and set direction a leader needs to appear confident as a person and in the leadership role. Such a person inspires confidence in others and draws out the trust of the team to complete the task well.
- **A leader also needs to function in an orderly and purposeful manner in situations of uncertainty.** People look to the leader during times of uncertainty and find reassurance when the leader portrays confidence and a positive demeanor.
- **Good leaders are tolerant and remain calm, composed and steadfast to the main purpose.**
- **A good leader keeps the main goal in focus and has the ability to think analytically.** Not only is the goal in view, but a good leader can break it down into manageable steps and make progress towards it.
- **A good leader is committed to excellence.** Second best does not lead to success. The good leader maintains high standards, and raises the bar in order to achieve excellence in all areas.

Bible verses on finances, work, and business

- “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden **to work it** and take care of it”. - **Genesis 2:15**
- “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. **Six days you shall labor and do all your work**, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates.” - **Exodus 20:8-10**
- “If you lend money to one of my people among you who are needy, do not be like a moneylender; **charge him no interest.**” - **Exodus 22:25**
- “**Six days do your work**, but on the seventh day do not work, so that your ox and your donkey may rest and the slave born in your household, and the alien as well, may be refreshed.” - **Exodus 23:12**
- “He has filled them with **skill to do all kinds of work as craftsmen, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers—**all of them **master craftsmen and designers.**” - **Exodus 35:35**
- “**Give generously** to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your **God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.**” - **Deuteronomy 15:10**
- “When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the alien, the fatherless and the widow, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.” - **Deuteronomy 24:19**
- “**Don't cheat when measuring length, weight, or quantity.** Use honest scales and weights and measures. I am God, your God. I brought you out of Egypt.” - **Leviticus 19:35**
- David also said to Solomon his son, “Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the **work for the service** of the temple of the Lord is finished.” **1 - Chronicles 28:20**

- “If you sell or buy property from one of your countrymen, don't cheat him. **Calculate the purchase price** on the basis of the number of years since the Jubilee. He is obliged to set the sale price on the basis of the number of harvests remaining until the next Jubilee. The more years left, the more money; you can raise the price. But the fewer years left the less money; decrease the price. What you are **buying and selling in fact is the number of crops you're going to harvest**. Don't cheat each other. Fear your God. I am God, your God.” - **Leviticus 25:14**
- “They were all trying to frighten us, thinking, “Their **hands will get too weak for the work**, and it will not be completed.” But I prayed, “Now strengthen my hands.” - **Nehemiah 6:9**
- “**He who works his land will have abundant food**, but he who chases fantasies lacks judgment.” - **Proverbs 12:11**
- “From the fruit of his lips a man is filled with good things as surely as **the work of his hands rewards him**.” - **Proverbs 12:14**
- “**Dishonest money dwindles away**, but **he who gathers money little by little makes it grow**.” - **Proverbs 13:11**
- **All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.** - **Proverbs 14:23**
- The sluggard's craving will be the death of him, because **his hands refuse to work**. - **Proverbs 21:25**
- “Do not be a man who strikes hands in pledge or **puts up security for debts; if you lack the means to pay, your very bed will be snatched from under you**.... Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men.” - **Proverbs 22:26-27, 29**
- “He who works his land will have abundant food, but the one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty.” - **Proverbs 28:19**
- “Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless.” - **Ecclesiastes 5:10**

- **“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might,** for in the grave, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.” - **Ecclesiastes 9:10**
- “But now be strong, O Zerubbabel,' declares the LORD. “Be strong, O Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest. **Be strong, all you people of the land,” declares the LORD, 'and work.** For I am with you,' declares the LORD Almighty.” - **Haggai 2:4**
- “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. **You cannot serve both God and money.**” - **Matthew 6:24**
- “He told them, **“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.** Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” - **Luke 10:2**
- “In everything I did, I showed you that **by this kind of hard work we must help the weak,** remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: **“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”** - **Acts 20:35**
- “Give everyone what you owe him: **If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.**” - **Romans 13:7**
- “For the Scripture says, **“Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain,”** and **“The worker deserves his wages.”** - **1 Timothy 5:18**
- “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, **a workman who does not need to be ashamed** and who correctly handles the word of truth.” - **2 Timothy 2:15**
- “God is not unjust; **He will not forget your work** and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.” - **Hebrews 6:10**
- **“Keep your lives free from the love of money** and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” - **Hebrews 13:5**

Quotes on character

- "Leadership is the capacity and will to rally men and women to a common purpose and the character which inspires confidence." - Bernard Montgomery, British Field Marshall
- **"The respect that leadership must have requires that one's ethics be without question.** A leader not only stays above the line between right and wrong, he stays well clear of the gray areas." - G. Alan Bernard, President, Mid Park, Inc.
- "Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power." - Abraham Lincoln
- "Never, for the sake of peace and quiet, deny your own experience or convictions." - Dag Hammarskjold, Statesman
- "We aim to develop physique, mentality and character in our students; but because the first two are menaces without the third, the greatest of these is character." - Joseph Allen
- **"Character is destiny."** - Heraclitus
- **"Character is power."** - Booker T. Washington
- "You cannot dream yourself into a character; you must hammer and forge yourself one." - James A. Froude
- "God grant that men of principle shall be our principal men." - Thomas Jefferson
- "Character is the indelible mark that determines the only true value of all people and all their work." - Orison Marden
- "Successful leadership is not about being tough or soft, sensitive or assertive, but about a set of attributes. First and foremost is character" - Warren Bennis
- "Dreams are the touchstones of our character" - Henry David Thoreau

- "Good character is more to be praised than outstanding talent. Most talents are to some extent a gift. Good character, by contrast, is not given to us. We have to build it piece by piece—by thought, choice, courage and determination." - John Luther
- "Mountaintops inspire leaders but valleys mature them." - Winston Churchill
- "The highest reward for man's toil is not what he gets for it but what he becomes by it." - John Ruskin
- "To be thrown upon one's own resources is to be cast into the very lap of fortune; for our faculties then undergo a development and display an energy of which they were previously unsusceptible." - Benjamin Franklin

Quotes on responsibility

- "Success on any major scale requires you to accept responsibility... In the final analysis, the one quality that all successful people have is the ability to take on responsibility." - Michael Korda
- "The price of greatness is responsibility." - Winston Churchill
- "The man who complains about the way the ball bounces is likely to be the one who dropped it." - Lou Holtz
- "You must take personal responsibility. You cannot change the circumstances, the seasons, or the wind, but you can change yourself." - Jim Rohn
- "The reason people blame things on the previous generation is that there's only one other choice." - Doug Larson
- "Ninety-nine percent of all failures come from people who have a habit of making excuses." - George Washington Carver

Quotes on vision

- "The empires of the future are empires of the mind." - Winston Churchill
- "No one is less ready for tomorrow than the person who holds the most rigid beliefs about what tomorrow will contain." - Watts Wacker, Jim Taylor and Howard Means - *The Visionary's Handbook: Ten Paradoxes That Will Shape the Future of Your Business* (1999)
- "A leader has the vision and conviction that a dream can be achieved. He inspires the power and energy to get it done." - Ralph Lauren
- "A leader's role is to raise people's aspirations for what they can become and to release their energies so they will try to get there." - David Gergen
- "Big thinking precedes great achievement." - Wilfred Peterson
- "The future belongs to those who see possibilities before they become obvious." - John Scully
- **"Vision is the art of seeing the invisible."** - Jonathan Swift
- "Create your future from your future, not your past." - Werner Erhard
- "You cannot depend on your eyes when your imagination is out of focus." - Mark Twain
- "Don't part with your illusions. When they are gone, you may still exist, but you have ceased to live." - Mark Twain
- "The future belongs to those who see possibilities before they become obvious." - John Sculley, Former CEO of Pepsi and Apple Computer
- **"Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality."** - Warren Bennis
- "A man's life is colored by the dye of his imagination." - Louis Nizer

Quotes on leadership

- **"If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall in the ditch." - Jesus Christ**
- "Dictators ride to and fro upon tigers which they dare not dismount. And the tigers are getting hungry." - Winston Churchill
- "All of the great leaders have had one characteristic in common: it was the willingness to confront unequivocally the major anxiety of their people in their time. This, and not much else, is the essence of leadership." - John Kenneth Galbraith
- "If a rhinoceros were to enter this restaurant now, there is no denying he would have great power here. But I should be the first to rise and assure him that he had no authority whatever." - G.K. Chesterton
- **"The task of the leader is to get his people from where they are to where they have not been."** - Henry Kissinger
- "No institution can possibly survive if it needs geniuses or supermen to manage it. It must be organized in such a way as to be able to get along under a leadership composed of average human beings." - Peter Drucker
- "The task of leadership is not to put greatness into humanity, but to elicit it, for the greatness is already there." - John Buchan
- "Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it." - Dwight D. Eisenhower
- "The best is he who calls men to the best. And those who heed the call are also blessed. But worthless who call not, heed not, but rest." – Hesiod, 8th Century BC Greek poet
- "Great leaders are almost always great simplifiers, who can cut through argument, debate, and doubt to offer a solution everybody can understand." - Colin Powell

QUOTES

- **“Wise are those who learn that the bottom line doesn't always have to be their top priority.” - William Arthur Ward**
- **“Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma - which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most importantly, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary.” - Steve Jobs**

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Message from Jerome Liberty

My preparation for ministry started in the marketplace. **I believe the size of the team has to match the size of your dream.** I believe there is a grave need for value-driven leadership in the marketplace. The Biblical hierarchy model of leadership started with the five hundred, the one-hundred-and-twenty, the seventy, the twelve, the three and ultimately the right hand man “the Rock”, named Peter. **Every ministry raises such a man**, which is the second man in charge. It is important that we understand the role of this man as at times he has to speak on your behalf. You have to be sure that he articulates you properly when you are not there.

The man, Peter, is more known for his “lack of faith” when he felt that he was sinking, yet it took **great faith** to get out of the boat and to walk towards Jesus - More people are nowadays found inside the boat than on the water. He is remembered for denying Jesus. Much is to be learnt from his weaknesses as from his successes.

The front cover of the book is inspired by the following:

After calling Peter Jesus commanded him to launch into the deep. **You will not catch big fish in shallow waters.**

In order to explore you need to wave the shore goodbye or that which is familiar.

In good weather all relationships look good. However, in stormy weather the character of a man is exposed.

Many flaws are hidden behind a smile, a “God bless you” and even what we call the anointing. If you want to test the depth of a man, launch him out into deep waters. It is dangerous when your right hand man sleeps while you fight for your life.

Come walk with me on the water as we learn leadership lessons from the right hand man of Jesus, “Peter, the Rock” - Jerome Liberty