

# MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP

PODCAST  
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EP77

From a Hierarchical leadership  
mindset to a Servant - Based  
leadership mindset:

From people serving the leader to the  
leader serving the people

**Hierarchical thinking** is a mindset that exalts a leader ABOVE the people.

A **Servant based leadership mindset** is the belief that we are all equal before God.

## WHY IS THIS SO IMPORTANT:

**1 Peter 5:6 (NIV)** *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.*

**We are robbing the Cross of its power when we try and re-establish what the Cross has destroyed.**

**RECAP:** “From lording it over to going before” - we break the hierarchical model of thinking when we see ourselves as leaders as those who go before the people, not those who are above the people!

## **PART 2: From people serving the leader to the leader serving the people**

The worldly leadership mindset is that the people should serve the leader

**Jesus introduced a radical Kingdom concept - greatness is found in the leader serving the people**

**Matthew 20:26-28 (NIV)** <sup>26</sup> *Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,* <sup>27</sup>

*and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

## **Jesus uses himself as the model of Kingdom leadership - not hierarchical but servant based**

- In other words Jesus is not drawing his leadership influence from being the Son of God (elevated position) but from being the Son of Man (equal position)

**Peter learned this lesson from Jesus which is why he wrote:**

**1 Peter 5:2-3 (NIV)** <sup>2</sup> *Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you*

*must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; <sup>3</sup> not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.*

**This radical concept of servant based leadership is first revealed in the Old Testament when King Solomon's son, Rehoboam, first became king:**

***1 Kings 12:6-7 (NIV)***

*<sup>6</sup> Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who had served his father Solomon during his lifetime. "How would you advise me to answer these people?" he asked.*

*<sup>7</sup> They replied, "**If today you will be a servant to these people and serve them and give them a favorable answer, they will always be your servants.**"*

## **This is the wisdom that these elders learnt from Solomon:**

- When a leader **lovingly serves** the people
- The people will **willingly serve** the leader

## **Sadly, Rehoboam didn't listen,**

- He chose the traditional route of harshly lording it over the people
- Result was that the people rebelled against the leader

## **PERSONAL TESTIMONY:**

My experience of this goes all the way back to church planting days. Early on we met in a junior school hall for our Sunday meetings. So of course there was a lot to do to set up for our church gatherings. But apart from the setting out of chairs, sound

gear, and tea stations - there was the cleaning of toilets. And this was a junior school that hadn't been cleaned in a few days. Some of the toilets were like something out of a horror movie. I was hoping to hand this job over quickly to someone else. But every time it was as if the Lord kept reminding me....

**Mat 20:26** *“whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave”*

But now twenty years later we get to live in the fruit of that. We have always had amazing volunteer serving teams who have been quick to do the horrible jobs!

**HONEST REFLECTION:**

1. Honesty time... are you as a leader really serving the people you lead or are you expecting them to serve you? Would the people you lead agree with your assessment?
2. What are some practical adjustments you could make to your leadership to serve people more? Even small gestures of serving can go a long way.
3. Think back on a leader who has had a big impact on your life. How did they serve you best?

## CHALLENGE:

This is a deeply entrenched mindset for many, that has to be changed if we are going to become the type of leader that God will promote.

Never forget: *“God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble”*

- Positioning yourself as the servant is the best way to position yourself for God's promotion

For more notes visit:

<https://outlookchurch.co.za/mustardseedleadership>

