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The Special Calling of a Christian Leader

We are all leaders in at least one area of our personal and professional lives. As Christians who are leaders in our homes, we are charged with the responsibility of providing direction and instruction to our children who continuously depend on us for the basic necessities of life. As Christians who are leaders on our jobs, we are often charged with the responsibility of supervising others regarding significant tasks that need to be completed on a daily basis. As Christians who are leaders in our community, we are responsible for inspiring, organizing and leading groups of people toward a common and noble goal (e.g., registering others to vote). Given that the values of Christ that are discussed by the disciple named Matthew in the Beatitudes of Matthew 5:1-12 (love and peace) are often at odds with the dominate values of the world, we often find that the act being a Christian leader is both physically and psychologically demanding but

also emotionally and spiritually rewarding. Indeed, Christian leadership is not limited to the person who stands in the pulpit on Sunday morning. Christian leadership concerns the act of being a beacon light for Jesus Christ in our words and deeds so that others may see the love of God and be led to experience a better life with God.

In the eleventh verse of the forty-eighth chapter of the book of Ezekiel, God's prophet makes the following statement: "It shall be for the priests that are sanctified of the sons of Zadok; which have kept my charge, which went not astray when the children of Israel went astray, as the Levites went astray." In short, Ezekiel was saying that there would be a great reward for the priests, who were God's leaders of their day, because they kept God's commandments when others among them "went astray."

As Christians who are leaders on jobs, in our homes and in the community, let us embrace and promote the teaching of Jesus among others who may have "gone astray." Some of our brothers and sisters may embrace values which promote fighting over fasting, power over prayer, prestige over peace, selfishness over sacrifice, greed over God, discord over devotion, fear over faith, hate over hope, money over meekness, lust over love, guns over goodwill, competition over cooperation, and chaos over community. The values of others may be popular, but the scriptures remind us that there is a great reward for the loving, but often dissenting, Christian voice. Let us lead those who may have gone astray back to the Christian community through the love of God. Our calling as Christian leaders is a special calling, one that is supported by God as we continue to do God's work.



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