

On Servant Leadership

The Sage is self-effacing and scanty of words. When his task is accomplished and things have been completed, all the people say, "We ourselves have achieved it!"

—Lao-Tze

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be servant of all.

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,
and to give his life as a ransom for many."

—Mark 10:42-45

We have all been called to be foot-washers.

—R. Alan Woods

Show us, don't tell us.

—Miles Anthony Smith

Love may challenge and love may correct but love will never shame. Love may call us out to uncomfortable places but love will never cast us aside. Love may demand but will never demean.

Love will never ask us to dim our light lest we shine too brightly.

Love will never ask us to be less than we were created to be.

—Peggy Haymes

He who is not a good servant will not be a good master.

—Plato

If you are the master, be sometimes blind; if you are the servant, be sometimes deaf.

—R. Buckminster Fuller

Authority is always built on service and sacrifice.

—James C. Hunter

The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality. The last is to say thank you.

In between, the leader is a servant.

—Max De Pree

Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others.

—Jack Welch

Serving others prepares you to lead others.

—*Jim George*

It has generally been my experience that the very top people of truly great organizations are servant leaders.

—*Stephen R. Covey*

As many small trickles of water feed the mightiest of rivers, the growing number of individuals and organizations practicing servant leadership has increased into a torrent, one that carries with it a deep current of meaning and passion.

—*Larry C. Spears*

Servant leadership is more than a concept; it is a fact. Any great leader, by which I also mean an ethical leader of any group, will see herself or himself as a servant of that group and will act accordingly.

—*M. Scott Peck*

The true heroes of the new millennium will be servant leaders, quietly working out of the spotlight to transform our world.

—*Ann McGee-Cooper*

I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.

—*Dr. Albert Schweitzer*

Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve.

—*Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

I stand here before you not as a prophet, but as a humble servant of you, the people.

—*Nelson Mandela*

Service which is rendered without joy helps neither the servant nor the served. But all other pleasures and possessions pale into nothingness before service which is rendered in a spirit of joy.

—*Mahatma Gandhi*

The miracle is not that we do this work, but that we are happy to do it.

—*Mother Teresa*

Give people resources, give them a sense of direction, give them a sense of their own power and just have tremendous faith that they'll figure it out.

—*Margaret Wheatley*

As we look into the next century, leaders will be those who empower others.

—*Bill Gates*

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