

"Lead Like Jesus," Blanchard & Hodges

Reviewed by Alexa Gordon

After world-renowned success for the book "The One Minute Manager" Ken Blanchard decided that something significant was missing from his lifestyle and his leadership. He had spent years being a professional leader as well as teaching others how to be a more effective leader. Still, something inside of him yearned for something more. In the late 1980s, Blanchard became a committed follower of Jesus Christ. From that moment forward, he continued to use his gifts in leadership for a different goal. After starting the Lead Like Jesus ministry, Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges decided to write a book summarizing their hearts for leadership. The book was very simply named *Lead Like Jesus*.

After spending much of their life trying all sorts of leadership styles, Blanchard and Hodges realized that Jesus Christ is the greatest example of a leader we could ever ask for. Jesus Christ is a servant leader. Blanchard and Hodges examine the heart, head, hands and habits of Jesus Christ. If we ever want to be a successful leader God intended us to be, they assert, we too have to be servant leaders, not self-serving leaders. A servant leader is a leader who serves rather than be served. Blanchard and Hodges focused on four things that are necessary to be a true servant leader.

First, the book illustrates the heart of a servant leader. The heart is where a servant leader begins. The things inside our heart define how we as humans view the world and ultimately how we act. To be a servant leader means that the heart is not secretly motivated by self-interest. Blanchard and Hodges continually draw attention and focus on fear, pride, and the ego. The chapter is full of reflect on these issues and how they can drive people to be self-serving leaders. A servant leader must be aware of

these issues. Jesus teaches us that by continuing to develop a relationship with God and worship Him, our hearts will change. The more our heart changes, fear, pride, and egos lose control of our hearts.

Second, Blanchard and Hodges describe the head of a servant leader. The head contains someone's perspective and visions. A servant leader's perspective must have intent and must have motivation. A servant leader must also have a vision. This vision must have three parts. The vision must have a purpose, a picture of the future and values. To implement a vision, a purpose, a picture of the future and values have to be clearly defined. To lead without defining these areas is a dangerous practice for a servant leader.

The second half of the book focuses on being a leader externally. It also focuses on how being a leader on the inside drastically affects how we are leading on the outside. Blanchard and Hodges explain that to have hands like a servant leader means to implement the internal leadership skills in an external manner. Servant leaders are called to disciple and invest in followers, employees and family members. We must physically invest our lives, time, and hands with love to whomever we are leading.

Last, but not least, are the habits of a servant leader. To be a servant leader, to be like Jesus, we must develop habits like Jesus. Blanchard and Hodges write that you cannot have habits like Jesus if you don't have a heart, a head, and hands like Jesus first. To have habits like Jesus means to have solitude, prayer, study and application of scripture, accepting and responding to God's unconditional love, and involvement in supportive relationships. This section examines the daily activities of Jesus in scripture. Daily Jesus was in solitude, praying, studying and applying scripture to his life and others, he was accepting the love from the Father

and showering it onto others and he was also involved in supportive and intimate relationships. To be a servant leader means to have these same habits and according to Blanchard and Hodges, they are a natural result of having a heart, head, and hands like Jesus.

I believe this book provides a picture of servant leadership in a profound light. It uses scripture to paint the true meaning of servant leadership. I believe the authors break down scripture and show us what it means to *really* lead like Jesus. Blanchard and Hodges make it easy to understand how Christian leaders are called to live and lead, no matter what their position.

This style of leadership is mostly different from our management styles discussed in class. This book focuses more on the leader individually. It does not discuss details concerning a company, product quality, a company's success, or employee strategies. To believe in this management style is to believe that the leader's character is the most important thing about the company and will affect the company as a whole.

I would highly recommend this book to anyone who knows Jesus Christ personally as their Lord and Savior and to anyone who is desiring to discover a new way to lead in a world full of corruption and the misuse of power. I would also recommend this book as a starting point to leadership. This book is only a foundation for leadership because it examines how to prepare to be a leader. It does not discuss a corporation or business as a whole, only the character of a leader; I also find this book applicable to any field, including at home in the family. Whether you are a Christian or not, I find this book significant for public relations because it emphasizes the importance of authenticity and consistency. Whether you are gaining the trust of your employees or the public, being authentic and consistent is

crucial. Being the same person internally as you are externally will set you up for being a leader in a powerful way.