

Disciples Discipling Disciples: Implementing Examples of Jesus's Leadership Lessons

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ABSTRACT: Jesus provides many leadership and discipleship lessons that are applicable to today's accounting and business students and business leaders. In this paper, we offer instructional resources to better disciple students in the classroom and better prepare them to disciple others they will encounter and lead. We provide four reflection learning assignments that have students consider how they can build their discipleship characteristics by studying Jesus's teachings in the Sermon on the Mount, his examples, and the examples of Christian business leaders who have disciplined others. The resources are intended to help instructors and students disciple disciples as disciples of Christ.

KEYWORDS: discipleship, leadership, Christian leadership characteristics, leadership lessons and examples, Jesus, Christ's teaching and examples

THE NEED FOR CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP

How can we better disciple our business and accounting students in the classroom and better prepare them to disciple those they will encounter and lead? Recently McMahon (2019) modeled Christian leadership and business management as a long-term discipleship or teaching process, which, importantly, can be used as a roadmap to build relationships with the potential to promote disciple-making (p. 25). While McMahon's (2019) enriched perspective of leadership as a discipleship process can help Christian students and leaders foster discipling opportunities, no instructional resources were provided to help students follow Jesus's discipling model. This paper fills that void. It offers instructional resources that disciple students with experiential learning activities that have them consider how they can build their discipleship characteristics by studying Jesus's teaching in the Sermon on the Mount, his examples, and the examples of Christian leaders in business who have disciplined others. In other words, these resources help Christian instructors and students—disciples of Christ—disciple disciples.

Effective Christian leadership is critical to success and needed in many domains: the business world, the church, the family, and even personal self-leadership. Leadership is a process of influence and discipleship. Any time you influence the thinking, behavior, or development of people, you are leading and discipling (Blanchard & Hodges, 2005, p. 4). For example, carrying out Christ's great commission and witnessing to others involves *leading* and *discipling* people to Christ. However, leadership training and development programs often fail (Beer et al. 2016; Gurdjian et al., 2014). While Jesus's death and resurrection in the past provides Christian believers with salvation and eternal life in the future, how does Jesus's life and grace inform and transform a Christian leader's discipling activities here and now?

Leaders choose how and to what end they will use their influence—either to serve and disciple or to be served. As Christian leaders, are we willing to follow Jesus and his discipleship process as our leadership example? Jesus exemplified a “servant-leadership” discipleship style involving two parts: 1) *leading* by setting the course (i.e., a visionary role), and 2) *servicing* by empowering and supporting others

(i.e., an implementation role). Discipling like Jesus only can be achieved by walking closer to him in a surrendered relationship of discipleship based on trust and love (Blanchard & Hodges, 2005, p. 195). McMahon (2019) examines how Jesus detailed the Christian discipleship process in the Sermon on the Mount (i.e., Matthew 5-7)—the most concentrated portion of Jesus’s recorded teaching (Sturz, 1968). It portrays a new relationship with God made possible by Jesus that transforms Christian life and leadership from the inside out (Cahill, 1987). In the Sermon, Jesus communicates how he wants to disciple us by: 1) leading us with a new vision of effectiveness for our Christian life and leadership (i.e., a visionary role), and 2) serving us with his grace and truth to empower and support our leadership (i.e., an implementation role).

McMahon (2019) studies how Jesus’s teachings in the Sermon on the Mount develop virtues of discipleship in a Christian’s character by building the genuineness of our hearts, the humility and wisdom of our heads, the service of our hands, and the grace and integrity of our habits. In this paper, we develop four instructional assignments to develop the hearts, heads, hands and habits of students’ discipleship characteristics. Each assignment explores how Jesus’s teachings and examples serve to inspire Christian leaders and demonstrate important discipleship characteristics in a Christian leader’s heart, head, hands, and habits (Colan, 2016).

The remainder of the paper proceeds as follows. The next section presents a brief background to provide con-

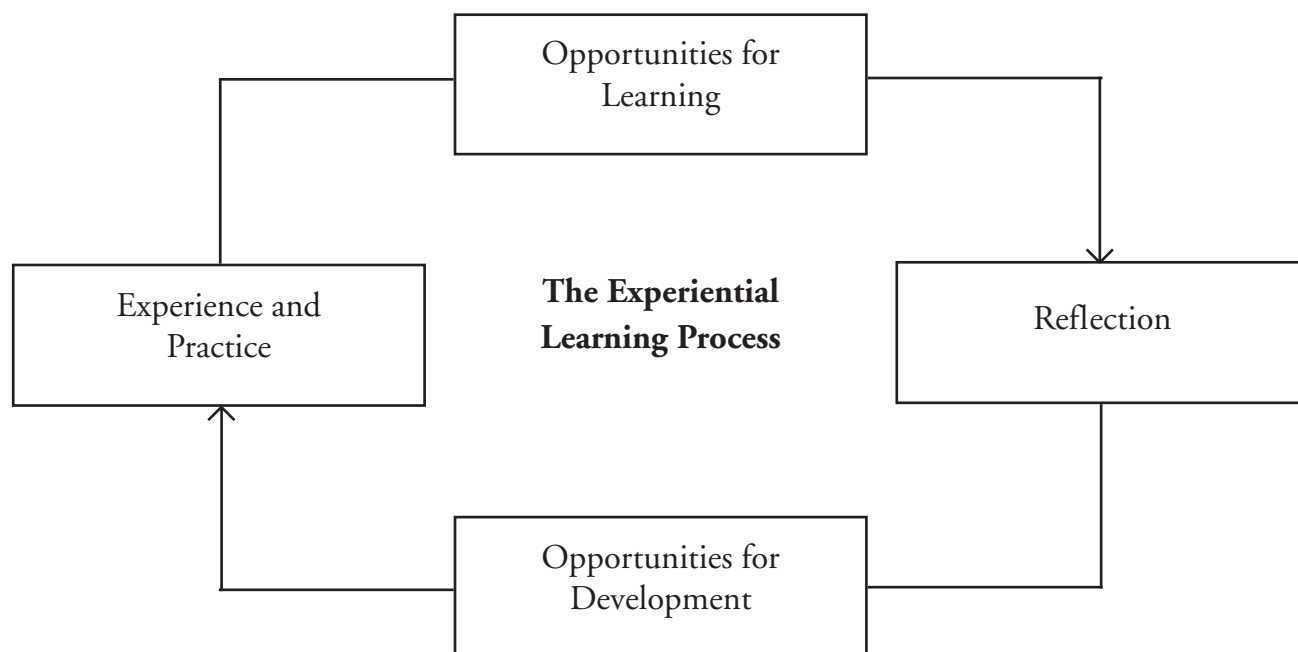
text for and introduce our instructional resources. This is followed by the main section of our paper containing our four instructional assignments, and we end the paper with a conclusion.

BACKGROUND

Integrating and connecting faith to educational and scholarship activity is an important distinguishing feature between religious and secular universities (Dulaney et al., 2015), and Christian universities, business schools, and accounting programs should bring faith into the classroom (Correia et al., 2020). In fact, “millennials” desire to live holistic lives where they can bring their faith to their work (Miller & Ewest, 2013). Yet according to the Barna Group in 2011 “84 percent of Christians ages 18-29 do not know how the Bible applies to their profession” (as cited in McMahon et al., 2015, p. 110). Recently, however, McMahon (2019) posits that a proper understanding of the discipleship process can open future doors for Christian leaders to develop disciples while doing good business work (p. 21). In this way, students can begin to think of their work and Christian calling in new and integrated ways.

In fact, McMahon’s (2019) discipleship process even can assist business professors as they think of “how they can help future leaders think about the potential of their future role as business mentors to move people along the

Figure 1: The Experiential Learning Process



process of discipleship” (p. 22). Our four reflection learning assignments help interested instructors bring the discipleship process into the classroom and develop students’ discipleship characteristics.

The experiential learning process in Figure 1 involves two cyclical steps: (a) experience and practice that can lead to opportunities for learning and (b) reflection that can lead to opportunities for development (Esmond-Kiger & Stein,

1998; Hatcher & Bringle, 1997; Kolb et al., 1991; Stuebs, 2010). The latter step, in turn, feeds back and can inform future experiences and practice in the cyclical process.

The four discipleship assignments give students an opportunity to reflect on and grow from the teachings, examples, and experiences of Jesus and other Christian business leaders and connect the lessons from these experiences to their own. In this way, the assignments are tools that

Table 1: Summarizing Discipleship Concepts

Jesus’s Teaching	Jesus’s Example	Moral Exemplars
<p>1. Heart: The Beatitudes tell us that Jesus coming gives us:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>New identity:</u> As children of God (Matt. 5:9), and b. <u>New purpose:</u> Pure hearts (Matt. 5:8) that desire to serve God by serving others. 	<p>1. Heart: Paul and the Apostles provide examples of lives and leadership changed by the heart-transforming power of Jesus.</p>	<p>1. A Leader’s Heart: John Tyson’s attributes his personal transformation from the inside out to “God’s grace” and has emphasized honoring God and being a “faith-friendly” company. He instituted a Chaplaincy Program to benefit employees.</p>
<p>2. Head: In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>New perspective:</u> As salt and light in the world (Matthew 5:13, 14, 16). b. <u>New values:</u> Value serving God and others above money, creation and serving self (Matthew 6:19-21, 24). c. <u>New future:</u> Securely built on the Rock of Christ (Matthew 7:24-25). d. <u>New goals:</u> Live for God’s kingdom (Matt. 6:33) 	<p>2. Head: Jesus’s parables provide pictures that provoke imagination in addition to intellect and help us see how we are a part of what God is doing providing a new vision for our discipleship.</p>	<p>2. A Leader’s Head: Cynthia Cooper’s auditing expertise, ethical leadership abilities, and Christian faith enabled her to lead a team that uncovered WorldCom’s major accounting fraud and reported its true financial picture and accounting story. She saw how her leadership was part of her Christian calling.</p>
<p>3. Hands: In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus helps us assess and implement right behavior by illustrating that right behavior requires right motives.</p>	<p>3. Hands: Jesus helped the disciples implement servant-leadership behaviors with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>His example:</u> Washing the disciples’ feet (John 13:12-15), and b. <u>His presence:</u> And assistance in implementing the Great Commission (Matt. 28:20). 	<p>3. A Leader’s Hands: Sam Walton founded Walmart as a Christian oriented company that emphasized servant leadership and promoting Christian values. This contributed to the company’s success in religious regions where it operated.</p>
<p>4. Habits: In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages us to build the habits of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Love:</u> For others (Matt. 5:38-39) and our enemies (Matt. 5:43-44). b. <u>Service to God’s Kingdom:</u> With an eternal perspective and God’s forgiveness and grace (Matt. 6:33). 	<p>4. Habits: Jesus did not alter his convictions or message but continued to love his enemies and those who rejected him.</p>	<p>4. A Leader’s Habits: S. Truett Cathy founded Chick-fil-A as a Christian-oriented company and established a policy that restaurants would be closed on Sundays so that employees would be able to attend church.</p>

combine and connect the experiences of Jesus and business leaders to reflective self-assessment activities focused on character learning for discipleship. Each of the four assignments focuses on a different area of a student's discipleship character: the heart, the head, the hands, and the habits, and Table 1 provides an overview and summary of the discipleship concepts in the four assignments.

Each assignment consists of four parts: 1) Jesus's teachings from the Sermon on the Mount, 2) Jesus's examples, 3) the examples of a Christian businessperson, and 4) student assignment questions for reflection and growth.

INSTRUCTIONAL ASSIGNMENTS TO DISCIPLE STUDENTS' DISCIPLESHIP

Assignment 1: Discipling the Leader's Heart: Good Leaders Lead from the Inside Out

Jesus's Teaching

Jesus starts his teachings in the Sermon on the Mount with the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12), or blessings, that Christians receive from Jesus and his kingdom—or rule—in our hearts, which changes our relationship, status, and identity with God and gives new purpose to our life and leadership. The Beatitudes tell us what Jesus's coming has done for us¹—changing our ability to live and lead from the inside out (Hagner, 1997).

Effective leadership is first a heart issue beginning on the inside. Leaders must answer important questions around: 1. Identity (Who am I?) and 2) Purpose (Whose am I? Who am I serving?) (Blanchard & Hodges, 2005, pp. 20 & 39). The Beatitudes, or blessings, of Christ's love transform and redeem Christians' identity from powerless sinners (Romans 5:6-8²) and enemies of God (Romans 5:10³) with self-serving purposes to adopted and accepted children of God (Matthew 5:9, Ephesians 1:5, Galatians 4:4-5, 7⁴) with the blessing of pure hearts (Matthew 5:8, Psalm 51:10⁵) capable of living and leading with a new purpose that serves the kingdom of God and his glory by serving others.

Jesus's Example

The stories of Paul and the Apostles provide examples of lives and leadership changed by the heart-transforming power of Jesus. The first apostles received the grace of Christ through the Holy Spirit (Acts 2) which inspired a new identity and purpose that caused them to lead lives of leadership guided by prideful self-promotion (Mark 9:34, Luke 9:46, Luke 22:24, Mark 10:37⁶) and fearful self-preservation (Matthew 26:69-75, Luke 22:54-62⁷) and now live new lives with a new leadership and discipleship vision for God and others. When Paul encountered the grace of Christ on the road to Damascus, his heart was transformed receiving

a new identity and purpose to serve God by leading others to Christ (Acts 9:1-9). Encounters with Christ and his love change hearts and provide new identity and purpose, transforming lives and leadership from the inside out.

Moral Exemplar

John Tyson, former CEO of Tyson Foods and present chairman of the board, is an example of a business leader whose life has been transformed from the inside out by God's grace. He was a "hell-raising alcoholic" who stopped drinking when an uncle who also drank died in an accident. "It was God's grace that gave me a chance to be clean" (as cited in Morais, 2004, p. 135). During his CEO tenure, Tyson guided the firm to a great deal of success and continued to emphasize the importance of God to the company and of serving others. As part of Tyson's core values, they both "strive to be a faith-friendly company" and "strive to honor God and be respectful of each other, our customers, and other shareholders" (Tyson Foods, Inc., 2005, p. 2). In 2000 John Tyson started the company's Chaplaincy Program, which involves over 125 chaplains and benefits employees across North America. "Our chaplains provide confidential pastoral care and counseling for personal, family, or spiritual needs of our Team Members and their families, regardless of their religious affiliations or beliefs" (Tyson Foods, Inc., 2005, p. 15). John Tyson has also demonstrated his faith and commitment to serving others in his philanthropic efforts. In 2007 he endowed the Faith and Spirituality in the Workplace Chair at the University of Arkansas, noting the importance of faith and spirituality in the workplace ("Tyson Family," 2007).

Questions for Reflection and Growth

1. After considering the John Tyson example, please provide an example of someone you know who has led from the "inside out." What appear to be the characteristics that enabled that person to be successful?
2. Please provide an example in which you had to address your 1) Identity (Who am I?) and 2) Purpose (Whose am I? Who am I serving?).

Assignment 2: Discipling the Leader's Head: Good Leaders are Storytellers

Jesus's Teaching

Jesus's discipling process of transforming lives and developing Christian servant-leaders next moves to the *head*, the leader's perspective and belief system. Servant-leaders provide perspective and *lead* by carrying out a visionary role that sets course and direction (Blanchard & Hodges, 2005, pp. 83-84). After blessing Christians with a new identity and purpose in the Beatitudes, Jesus next gives Christians in the Sermon on the Mount a new outward-focused vision and perspective to live for God and his glory (2 Corinthians

5:15⁸) by serving others (John 13:34-35, Philippians 2:3-5⁹) as salt and light in the world (Matthew 5:13, 14, 16¹⁰). Jesus's vision provides us with a new story of God's love to share through our leadership, actions, and words.

Communicating a compelling vision has three parts: 1) *Meaning: A purpose*: Who we are and what are we here for? 2) *Destiny: A picture of the future*: Where are we going? 3) *Morality: A set of values*: What will guide our journey? (Blanchard & Stoner, 2011). Setting and prioritizing values is important because life is a series of values conflicts. Jesus sets our values later in the Sermon by telling us to value serving God and not money or creation (Matthew 6:19-21, 24¹¹). Jesus tells us not to worry about our lives (Matthew 6:25, 32¹²) and paints a picture of a house securely built on a rock as we trust him to enable us to hear, implement, and practice his words (Matthew 7:24-25¹³). These are examples of how Jesus used pictures and parables to communicate his compelling leadership vision of transforming us into disciples who disciple others to him.

Once Jesus has set our vision, he then establishes goals for us to tell us what to focus on. Jesus tells us to first serve "His kingdom and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:33¹⁴).

Jesus's Example

As a leader, Jesus used parables to explain himself (i.e., who he was) and his mission (i.e., what he was here for) and share details of his vision of God's spiritual kingdom with us to lead and rule our hearts and lives. The pictures in his parables provoke imagination in addition to intellect and help us see what God is doing from a new perspective. For example, Jesus used the pictures of a mustard seed (Matthew 13:31-32¹⁵) and yeast (Matthew 13:33¹⁶) to describe the surprising, heart-transforming power of the kingdom of God and pictures of hidden treasure (Matthew 13:44¹⁷) and pearls (Matthew 13:45-46¹⁸) to explain the value of the kingdom of God. Jesus used parables of lost sheep (Luke 15:4-7¹⁹) and lost coins (Luke 15:8-10²⁰) and a lost, prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32²¹) to convey the grace and love of God's upside-down kingdom. Once it is genuinely received in human hearts, the grace of God's kingdom produces results (e.g., the parable of the sower, Mark 4:1-20²²).

Moral Exemplar

Cynthia Cooper, the internal auditor who served as a whistleblower on WorldCom's multibillion dollar accounting fraud, demonstrates the principles of the leader's head as described above. She was able to communicate a compelling vision to her fellow team members with proper emphasis on the purpose, future, and values. When Cooper and her team discovered questionable accounting treatment of capital expenditures, she was told to delay her investigation. However, she and her team pursued the examination,

even working at night to inspect the accounting records and uncover the true accounting story and WorldCom's true financial picture. Their investigation ultimately led to the discovery of the major WorldCom fraud and its subsequent bankruptcy in 2002, which resulted in thousands of their fellow employees losing their jobs. Throughout the investigation and its aftermath, Cooper was able to keep her team focused on their purpose as internal auditors to uncover and tell the true accounting story, the potentially challenging future of the firm if their suspicions were validated, and the ethical values that guided their journey (Cooper, 2008). It proved to be a very challenging time for Cooper, who exemplified a Christian leader being led by Christ. As she notes, "For me, it was my Christian faith, my family, and my friends that really helped me navigate the storm and come out the other side" (as cited in Johnson, 2010).

Questions for Reflection and Growth

1. After considering the Cynthia Cooper example, please provide an example of someone you know who has been influenced by his or her perspective or belief system when communicating a compelling vision. What values were emphasized by this individual?
2. Please provide an example in which you had to provide a compelling vision to others. What values did you consider when developing this vision?

Assignment 3: Discipling the Leader's Hands: Good Leaders are Servants

Jesus's Teaching

Once people have a clear picture of the vision, leaders assume an implementation role and responsively *serve* followers by helping them carry out the vision, accomplish goals, and satisfy customers. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus clarifies how Christian values are translated and implemented in behavioral terms, and he empowers us to do so. Beneath right actions and right thoughts, Jesus communicates the importance of right motives to love God and others. Murderous behavior results from an angry heart's sinful, murderous motives (Matthew 5:21-22²³). Adulterous activity comes from a lustful heart's sinful desires (Matthew 5:27-28²⁴). Jesus uses several examples to underscore that right behaviors performed with unrighteous motives of self-love and self-promotion become forms of false righteousness (Matthew 6:1²⁵). Right behaviors like giving to the needy (Matthew 6:2²⁶), praying (Matthew 6:5²⁷), fasting (Matthew 6:16²⁸), and providing counsel and judgment (Matthew 7:1-2²⁹) become unrighteous if performed with motives of self-love and self-promotion. Our love for God and others should cause Christian leaders to serve, coach, and train followers with genuine care and concern for their wellbeing.

Jesus's Example

Jesus invested in serving, coaching, and training his followers. He provided a notable example of servant-leadership to the disciples when he willingly washed their feet and encouraged them to implement his servant-leadership example when serving others (John 13:12-15³⁰). When Jesus commissioned the disciples to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19), he provided his presence and promise to serve them and help them implement his evangelistic vision when he said, “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

Moral Exemplar

Sam Walton, who founded Walmart in 1962, established an organization that became widely regarded as “a pro-family, Christian company” that focused on Jesus’s role as a servant leader and serving others (Walsh, 2009). In her book *To Serve God and Walmart: The Making of Christian Free Enterprise*, Bethany Moreton notes the religious, service orientation of Sam Walton, including Sunday school leader, finance committee chair, and church elder. Moreton contends that Walmart benefited from its Christian orientation in geographical regions where religion has been valued. Ralph Reed, the executive director of the Christian Coalition, noted, “If you want to reach [the Christian population] on Saturday, you do it in Walmart” (Moreton, 2009, p. 90). Walton also served his community by engaging in philanthropic efforts, starting the Walton Family Foundation in 1987 with his wife, Helen. The Foundation supports K-12 education, the environment, and projects in Arkansas. In 2018, the Foundation awarded almost \$600 million in grants to support these causes (Walton Family Foundation, n.d.).

Questions for Reflection and Growth

1. After considering the Sam Walton example, please provide an example of someone you know who has served others. What values appear to be considered by this individual?
2. Please provide an example in which you served others in a positive way? What enabled you to be successful in this effort?

Assignment 4: Discipling the Leader's Habits: Good Leaders Balance Conviction with Compassion**Jesus's Teaching**

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus goes further, recognizing that habitually loving God and others creates leadership responsibilities that extend beyond complying with laws of fairness. While certain behaviors like fair retaliation (i.e., “eye for eye, and tooth for tooth”) and hating your enemies who hate you may be permissible, Jesus teaches that habitual love for others goes beyond fairness considerations

and repays bad with good (Matthew 5:38-39³¹) and loves those enemies who hate you (Matthew 5:43-44³²). Since the retaliatory standard of playing fair destroys relationships, Jesus encourages the habit of playing right instead of playing fair (Cloud, 2006).

Leading like Jesus calls Christian leaders to build the habit of seeking first God’s kingdom and God’s righteousness (Matthew 6:33³³). This means bringing an eternal perspective into our practical, day-to-day leadership activities and seeing people, situations, and priorities as God sees them by inviting the Holy Spirit to infuse our thoughts and actions with forgiveness and grace (Blanchard & Hodges, 2005, p. 76).

Jesus's Example

Jesus exemplified leadership habits of love and embraced those with whom he disagreed. Although he did not alter his convictions or message to gain approval, he continued to love those who rejected him. Jesus loved his enemies by praying for them, serving them, and dying for them (Romans 5:10³⁴). In his habitual love and compassion, Jesus died for us.

Moral Exemplar

S. Truett Cathy, the founder and former chairman and CEO of Chick-fil-A, typifies the characteristic of serving others, including employees. During his tenure as CEO, Cathy established many routines and habits. He participated in a habitual Monday morning devotional routine at Chick-fil-A’s Atlanta headquarters (McCarthy, 1996). Widely regarded as a spiritual leader, Cathy wanted employees to be able to habitually worship on Sundays, so he mandated that all Chick-fil-A restaurants be closed for business on Sundays, even though this policy results in approximately an annual sales decrease of about 20%. In 2002, the 81-year-old Cathy commented on this policy and described his Sunday routines and habits: “Sunday to me is a divine day. I teach Sunday school, go to church, and am with my family instead of making another buck.... The Lord has blessed me because of it” (as cited in Stout, 1996).

Questions for Reflection and Growth

1. After considering the S. Truett Cathy example, please provide an example of someone you know who has balanced the habits of conviction with compassion when dealing with others. What factors appear to be considered by this individual when making decisions?
2. Please provide an example in which someone you know developed and demonstrated the habits of conviction and compassion when dealing with you? What was the outcome of this effort?

THE LEADER'S HELP: GOOD LEADERS FOLLOW JESUS

Are you willing to follow Jesus as your leadership role model? Before you embark on discipling others as a leader, are you willing to be disciplined by the teachings and examples of Jesus and the examples of Christian leaders like those in this article? Hopefully, Jesus's teachings and examples and the examples of those other Christian leaders presented here help and inspire you to continue to let Christ develop your heart, head, hands, and habits with his discipleship vision for your life.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Our presentation and interpretation of the Sermon on the Mount takes the whole Gospel of the New Testament into consideration in a way that is consistent with the literature and avoids a simplistic, literalistic reading without compromising the serious intent of the message (Hagner 1997).
- ² “When we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.... While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:6, 8).
- ³ “While we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son” (Romans 5:10).
- ⁴ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9). “God predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will” (Ephesians 1:5). “God sent his Son...to redeem [us] that we might receive adoption to sonship...So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir” (Galatians 4:4-5, 7).
- ⁵ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God” (Matthew 5:8). “Create in me a pure heart...and renew a steadfast spirit in me” (Psalm 51:10).
- ⁶ The apostles wished to use their leadership positions for self-promotion and often quarreled over who was the greatest among them. See Mark 9:34 (“They had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest.”), Luke 9:46 (“Then a dispute arose among them as to which of them would be greatest.”), and Luke 22:24 (“Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest.”). Guided by hearts set on self-promotion, James and John even requested positions at Jesus’s right and left. See Mark 10:37 (James and John “replied, ‘Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory.’”).
- ⁷ Motivated by a heart set on self-preservation, Peter disowned Jesus three times before others (see Matthew 26:69-75 and Luke 22:54-62).
- ⁸ “Jesus died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again” (2 Corinthians 5:15).
- ⁹ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:34-35). “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:3-5).
- ¹⁰ “You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world...Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:13,14,16).
- ¹¹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth...But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.... No one can serve two masters... You cannot serve both God and money” (Matthew 6:19-21, 24).
- ¹² “Do not worry about your life...for...your heavenly Father knows [what] you need” (Matthew 6:25, 32).
- ¹³ “Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock” (Matthew 7:24, 25).
- ¹⁴ “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33).
- ¹⁵ “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches” (Matthew 13:31-32).
- ¹⁶ “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough” (Matthew 13:33).
- ¹⁷ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field” (Matthew 13:44).
- ¹⁸ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it” (Matthew 13:45-46).
- ¹⁹ “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after

- the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, "Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep." I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent" (Luke 15:4-7).
- 20 "Suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, "Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin." In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:8-10).
- 21 The full parable of the prodigal son can be found in Luke 15:11-32. Luke 15:22-24 shares the father's response when the prodigal son returns: "But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." So, they began to celebrate."
- 22 While the full parable of the sower is too long to reproduce here, it is available in Mark 4:1-20. Mark 4:20 tells what the seed of the kingdom of God produces when it is genuinely received: "Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown."
- 23 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, "You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment." But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment" (Matthew 5:21-22).
- 24 "You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery." But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matthew 5:27-28).
- 25 "Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven" (Matthew 6:1).
- 26 "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full" (Matthew 6:2).
- 27 "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full" (Matthew 6:5).
- 28 "When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full" (Matthew 6:16).
- 29 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you" (Matthew 7:1-2).
- 30 "When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. 'Do you understand what I have done for you?' he asked them. 'You call me "Teacher" and "Lord," and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you" (John 13:12-15).
- 31 "You have heard that it was said, "Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth." But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also" (Matthew 5:38-39).
- 32 "You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matthew 5:43-44).
- 33 "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33).
- 34 "While we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son" (Romans 5:10).

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