# **METRO NEW YORK WORLD MINISTRIES**

## ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL CONTRIBUTING NOTES

### For the week ending February 14, 2014

Sabbath School Lesson Topic: Discipling Leaders

#### Jesus was the perfect blend of mercy and justice

 “John saw the mercy, the tenderness, and the love of God blending with His holiness, justice, and power. He saw sinners finding a Father in Him of whom their sins had made them afraid. And looking beyond the culmination of the great conflict, he beheld upon Zion ‘them that had gotten the victory . . . stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God,’ and singing ‘the song of Moses’ and the Lamb.” Revelation 15:2, 3. AA 589

In every situation He was 100% merciful and 100% just.

In any disciplinary situation in a local church, you will usually find members either on the mercy side or the justice side.

Mercy without justice means there is no accountability for a person’s actions.

Justice without mercy tends to forget the nurturing side of salvation.

Hence, we often find ourselves not taking care of disciplinary situations very well. Why? Because we have failed to bring together as one two very important entities, namely mercy and justice.

Throughout our study on discipling leaders, we will always want to keep close to our heart these two great principles of mercy and justice. We could also refer to this as blending humility and a strong resolve or purpose.

These two entities, humility and a strong resolve, are brought together in Matthew 16:24, 25. “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.”

Here in this passage you have (1) humility: denying yourself, losing you life, and (2) strong resolve: it is losing your life to serve God.

In our world, most people do not (1) deny themselves, and (2) resolve to follow God.

They are caught up into amusements, money, recognition—self.

But if you are going to be a leader in God’s remnant church it is imperative that you do not draw attention to yourself but to Christ, and that you have made up your mind that serving Him is the main purpose of your life.

If people perceive that you are doing things for self, eventually they will not follow.

Case in point: A certain man has a wonderful ministry in conducting many mission trips around the world, but when he would come and share his mission report to the local church it was “I—I—I.”

As a result, people really didn’t want to hear his mission reports, financial support dropped off, and people began to focus on other defects in his person and family.

**Be Forward Thinking:**

We must blend humility with a definite goal. As the Bible says, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” Proverbs 29:18.

Listen to these words of Paul, “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,” Php 3:13

You must leave the past behind; let go of disappointments and unrealized dreams that you may chart a new course where God wants you to go. Then remain true to His purpose for your life.

#### Confronting Temptation

As a leader within God’s church, you will be faced with myriad temptations. Here are four areas that have compromised many leaders.

1. Handling of money (or the misuse of funds)
2. Sexual immorality

It may seem quaint and impractical in this day of casual relationships between the sexes to be so rigid about meeting with someone of the opposite sex—but you must be committed to never being alone with a woman who is not your wife.

1. Badmouthing others who are doing a similar work
2. Exaggerated accomplishments: Credibility is a precious commodity. When a leader exaggerates in one area, followers wonder if he is completely honest in other areas.

Pledge yourself:

1. Never gossip and tear down others
2. Be transparent in financial affairs
3. Tell the truth and be honest
4. Be exemplary in morals

Talent can take an individual far, but talent alone will not sustain a leader if he does not address the flaws in his character.

#### Handling Criticism

All leaders get criticized. It’s their response to criticism that sets them apart. Turn your critics to coaches, or sources of insight. Criticism can promote humility and protect us from vainglory.

When faced with criticism:

1. Settle on your deepest convictions about your mission and don’t let criticism misguide you. Keep the main thing the main thing.
2. Ignore much of it. Don’t overcredit criticism, thus turning a cold into a cancer. Bee stings are not snake bites.
3. Don’t respond reactively.

If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me won’t amount to anything. If the end brings me out wrong, then the witness of ten righteous men will make no difference.

 Proverbs 12:16 “A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult.”

#### Be optimistic and be a good example for others

Leaders who are good example get involved in personal evangelism. Consider these words concerning pastors, “Ministers, preach the truths that will lead to personal labor for those who are out of Christ. Encourage personal effort in every possible way. Remember that a minister's work does not consist merely in preaching. He is to visit families in their homes, to pray with them, and to open to them the Scriptures. He who does faithful work outside of the pulpit will accomplish tenfold more than he who confines his labors to the desk.” 9T 124

Pastors cannot lead by simply chairing committees, preaching a sermons on Sabbath morning, and holding a prayer meeting once a week. Personal labor must be exercised by all who want to be consecrated leaders.

Through your personal labors you are demonstrating what you expect others to do.

Being optimistic is another important feature of leadership. But optimism is not living in a fantasy world where nothing bad happens. Rather, optimism is a confidence that tragedy and setbacks are not the last word.

If you focus on the negatives it will drain you. Be positive and never forget that in the end truth triumphs.

Not everyone will be saved. In fact, most take the broad way that leads to destruction. Therefore, do not be paralyzed by the many that do not respond, but gain strength from the ones who do. Let us not paralyze our capacity for good by brooding over man’s capacity for evil. Let us further God’s kingdom one precious soul at a time.

We would do well to often read the last chapters of the Bible. It all turns out all right.

Revelation 21:4, 5 “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.”

Accept that there will be disappointments, but never lose hope.

Romans 8:24, 25 “For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.”

Romans 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

#### Discipled leaders disciple others

Leadership consists in getting people to work with, not for, you—particularly when they are under no obligation to do so.

Find people that are ready to serve, and then delegate to them some responsibility to make a difference in the lives of other people.

When the mission or task is complete give credit to those who did the work.

One of the most important elements of great leadership is not personal achievement, but on helping others be successful.

Ask yourself this question: Would you rather do the job of ten men or get ten men to do the right job?

In the beginning, God said that we were to have dominion over the fish of the sea, and every living thing, however, we were not to have dominion over our fellow man. Leadership is not dominating others, but empowering others to be more effective.

Philippians 2:2, 3 “Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”

Compiled by Pastor Wehr