

The Blackaby on Servant Leadership

Henry and Richard Blackaby (pp. 164-68) by saying that *leaders serve*, pointing to John 13;1-17 as a basic passage from scripture to define servant leadership. The authors make three key points from this text:

1. Servant leadership flows from the love leaders have for their people (v. 1-2).

- Jesus loved the disciples He served, including Judas.
- Leaders cannot truly serve people they do not love.
- Leaders can build close relationships with others in the organization.

2. Servant leaders possess self-knowledge (v.3).

- Jesus knew who He was and what He had been called to do.
- Leaders must know and accept who they are.
- Leaders must be secure in their identity so as not to worry about how people perceive them.
- Leaders secure in their identity are not enslaved by the opinions or affirmations of others.

3. Servant leaders must understand whom they serve (v. 4- I 7).

- Jesus served people but He served His Heavenly Father first
- Spiritual leaders are not their people's servants; they are God's.
- Jesus performed the washing of feet only once; He did not wash the disciples' feet every evening.
- Jesus continued to be the Teacher and Lord of the disciples despite this humble act of service.
- Some other lessons from the text
- God's leaders are never too important to do acts of humble service.

The world is full of people who are standing on their dignity when they ought to be kneeling at the feet of their brethren. In every sphere of life there is this desire for prominence and this unwillingness to take a subordinate. When we are tempted to think of our dignity, our prestige, our place, our rights, let us see again the picture of the Son of God, girt with a towel, and kneeling at His disciples' feet (Barclay).