

Lessons in Leadership: Peter

This is the third installment in a series entitled, "**Lessons in Leadership**".

This week, we will continue looking at various characters in the bible for the purpose of learning some valuable leadership lessons from what is written about them. Read this Monday Meditations with your bible in hand so you can reference some of the many scriptures that will be included.

Lessons in Leadership: Peter

One of the disciples of Christ that has always intrigued me is Peter. I love his seemingly vibrant and passionate character. I often see him as being incredibly committed and often misunderstood while being remarkably human in the way he approaches his faith.

As we all know, he was one of the twelve disciples of Jesus Christ. Peter, originally known as Simon, was a humble fisherman when Jesus called him to become a "*fisher of men*" (**Matthew 4:19**). Throughout the Gospels and Acts, Peter's journey from an impulsive and sometimes "less than perfect" follower to a bold and influential leader offers us some valuable lessons that resonate deeply with the challenges and responsibilities of leadership in any context.

Here are some thoughts for us to ponder:

Embrace Vulnerability and Imperfection

Peter's journey is marked by moments of both faith and failure. One of the most famous instances is when he boldly declared his loyalty to Jesus, saying, "*Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!*" (**Matthew 26:35**). However, just hours later, he denied knowing Jesus three times out of fear (**Matthew 26:69-75**).

Q: Are you willing to acknowledge your vulnerabilities and imperfections? Do you create a culture within your workplace that values authenticity and allows for growth through mistakes?

Responding to Call Despite Doubt

In **Matthew 14:22-33**, we find Peter stepping out of the boat to walk on water toward Jesus. However, as he saw the wind, he became afraid and began to sink. Jesus reached out his hand and caught him, saying, "*You of little faith, why did you doubt?*"

Q: How often do you allow doubt to hinder your willingness to step out in faith and respond to the call of leadership? What steps can you take to cultivate and strengthen your faith amidst uncertainty?

Willingness to Learn and Grow

Peter's journey is characterized by a willingness to learn and grow. Despite his shortcomings, he remained open to Jesus' teachings and correction. In **Luke 5:1-11**, we see Peter's humility when he obeyed Jesus' command to let down his nets after a fruitless night of fishing, resulting in a miraculous catch of fish.

Q: Are you humble enough to admit when you don't have all the answers and to learn from those around you, even those you lead? How can you foster a culture of continuous learning and improvement within your organization?

Boldness in Leadership

As Peter matured in his faith, he exhibited remarkable boldness in his leadership. On the day of Pentecost, filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter fearlessly proclaimed the gospel to a crowd, leading to the conversion of thousands (**Acts 2:14-41**).

Q: How can you cultivate the courage to boldly pursue your vision and values, even in the face of opposition or uncertainty? What role does faith play in overcoming fear and stepping into leadership with boldness?

Humility in Service

Despite his position of leadership among the disciples, Peter demonstrated humility and servant leadership. In **John 13:1-17**, we see Jesus washing the disciples' feet, including Peter's, as an example of humble service. Later, Peter himself exhorts fellow elders to "*be shepherds of God's flock... not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock*" (**1 Peter 5:2-3**).

Q: How can you lead with humility, putting the needs of others above your own? In what ways can you lead with a servant's heart?

Restoration and Redemption

One of the most beautiful aspects of Peter's story is his experience of restoration and redemption. After his denial of Jesus, Peter was restored through Jesus' love and forgiveness. Jesus not only reinstated Peter but entrusted him with the responsibility to "feed my lambs" and "take care of my sheep" (**John 21:15-19**).

Q: How do you respond when you, or those you lead, falter or fail? Are you quick to offer grace and restoration, recognizing the potential for growth and redemption?

Final Thought

The life of Peter offers a wealth of leadership lessons that resonate across time and context. His journey from a humble fisherman to a bold leader serves as a reminder of the transformative power of faith, humility, and perseverance. As Christian business leaders, may we draw inspiration from Peter's example as we navigate the challenges and opportunities of leadership, striving to lead with authenticity, courage, and servant-heartedness.

My Prayer

Heavenly Father,

I come before you with my heart open to receive wisdom and guidance from the life of your servant Peter. Thank you for the example of his journey, marked by faith, humility, and redemption.

Help me to embrace vulnerability and imperfection, knowing that in our weaknesses, your strength is made perfect. Grant me the courage to step out in faith, even amidst doubt and uncertainty, trusting in your provision and guidance.

Teach me, Lord, to cultivate a spirit of continuous learning and growth, humbly seeking wisdom from your Word and from those around me. May I lead with boldness, rooted in the assurance of your presence and power.

Fill my heart with a deep sense of humility and servant-heartedness, as I strive to be the example of Christ in my leadership. Grant me the grace to extend forgiveness and restoration to those who falter, just as you did for Peter.

I pray that the lessons from the life of Peter would inspire me to lead with authenticity, courage, and compassion, always seeking to glorify you in all that I do.

In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.



Steve Shrout

President, Corpath Forums

Cell: [403-390-3772](tel:403-390-3772)

Email: president@corpath.ca

Web: www.corpath.ca

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