



## 2.05 - Lion Hearted Leadership

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### 1. Lessons that can be learnt from the Lion – true example of Leadership.

(Scriptures from KJV)

What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you see a Lion or hear about one? Is it its strength? Is it its fierceness and its boldness? Is it its regal, majestic bearing? Or is it its magnificent appearance? Whatever it is you know about the Lion, you will still have to agree that it is a special animal, in fact it is so special that it is referred to as the "King of the Jungle" (even though it is mostly found in grasslands). The Lion as an animal is one that every leader and aspiring leader should strive to learn from. For that reason I have selected five facts about lions and the lessons you can learn from them.

#### FACT 1: A Lion's roar can be heard from five miles (8km) away:

##### **LESSON 1: Make yourself heard.**

- It is important for you to know that the statement you make is not just about what you say, the things you do and your character, is part of what makes your reputation.
- The Lion knows that its roar precedes it everywhere it goes, that is why it is the height of boldness.
- If you develop your reputation properly (in Christ), your boldness will increase.

#### FACT 2: Lions Are Very Social Animals; They Form Groups Called Prides with Sometimes As Many As Forty individuals In a Pride:

##### **LESSON 2: Interact With Others So That You Can Get Better**

- "Do not build fortresses to protect yourself – isolation is dangerous."
- Many people believe that the task of leadership is a burden that cannot be shared –not totally true.
- The leader should recognize himself as a river feeding others and being fed by others in turn.
- A river which isolates itself, which feeds nothing and which nothing feeds will sooner or later start to stink or dry up.
- Remember the popular acronym **TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More)**.

#### FACT 3: A Lion can spend up to 20 Hours a Day Sleeping:

##### **LESSON 3: There Is a Difference between a Leader and a Slave, Find Time to Relax.**

- We are tempted to work and work as slaves, we are constantly burnt out and worn out yet we do not see need to relax.
- Learn from the Lion who knows that every day it must eat, yet still sleeps for more than half the day. In spite of this perceived irresponsibility, the Lion never goes hungry.
- "Our minds need relaxation, and give way, unless we mix with work, a little play."
- If you want to have an enjoyable life learn to not let activity dominate your life. Find time to relax.



## 2.05 - Lion Hearted Leadership

**FACT 4: Lions rarely eat entire prey, they usually leave leftovers for other animals like hyenas AND vultures:**  
**LESSON 4: the ability to share is the hallmark of a leader**

- Every leader has people following him and it is the duty of that leader to ensure that those followers get a fair distribution of every benefit that accrues to the organization.
- Being a leader is not just the ability to give commands or share out work, it is also the ability to motivate.
- There is nothing that can motivate like reward and incentive, a true leader does not hold these things back.
- If you want to be respected you must learn to give freely of yourself to others.
- It is hard to imagine that the Lion in spite of its voracious appetite, and the amount of food needed to satisfy its massive body needs, is still considerate enough to leave leftovers for carrion eaters.

**FACT 5: Male Lions defend the pride's territory while females go to hunt, but the male gets to eat first:**  
**LESSON 5: Learn how to delegate responsibility**

- You have to accept that you cannot do everything or be everywhere at the same time.
- You have to learn to give some tasks for others to do.
- Some people are staunch believers in "if you want anything to be done right, you have to do it yourself." unfortunately taking this too far can bring blood pressure and nervous breakdown.
- One interesting fact is that despite the fact that the female makes the kill she brings it for the male to eat first.
- What we can all learn from this is that giving a task to somebody else to do doesn't mean you are giving them room to undermine your authority, it means you recognize that person's ability and skills and you recognize such a person as useful and important to the organization.
- One thing we should take note of is that the male Lion does not roll over and go to sleep when its mate goes to hunt, it has work that it also does.
- Do not give all your work out and then laze about all day. That is not delegation of duty, that is laziness and such an action leads to lack of respect.

**As Christians, we need to be "Word controlled and Spirit Led" but we can also learn valuable lessons from what the "World" has learnt about "Leadership" while still keeping within biblical wisdom & standards.**

**In the word of God we see that the "anointing oil" that was poured onto the head of a leader then it flowed down onto the body – simply translated this means WHATEVER IS IN leadership (Christian or Worldly), will eventually flow down onto the workers – positive or negative, good or bad.**

### **2. Characteristics of Leadership.** **(Bad Leadership, Non-Courageous Leadership or Cowardly Leadership)**

#### **1. Say what people want to hear.**

- The might say, "I'll think about it" rather than "No" – this is still an answer.
- These leaders say one thing to one person and another to someone else.
- They want everyone to like them.



## 2.05 - Lion Hearted Leadership

### 2. Avoids conflict.

- In every relationship there will be conflict.
- It is necessary for the strength of relationships and the organization.
- When the leader avoids conflict, the entire organization will avoid it.
- Problems are never addressed and therefore no solution is found.

### 3. Never willing to make the hard decisions.

- Leaders don't have to be smart or the one with the most experience.
- Leaders make the decisions no one else is willing to make.

### 4. Pretends everything is okay - even when they are not.

- They gloss over the real problems.
- They refuse to confront them.
- They either don't know how or their pride gets in the way.

### 5. Bails out on the team when things become difficult.

- If the leader bails out of a hard situation so will the team.
- Great leaders are on the frontline during the most difficult days.

### 6. Refuses to back up team members.

- No one wants to serve someone who will not protect them.
- People need to know if they make mistakes, their leader will support and can help them.

### 7. Caves in to criticism.

- Make any decision and a leader will receive criticism.
- Bad leaders fall apart when people complain.
- They take it personal and refused to see any value in it.
- These leaders see every criticism as a threat against their leadership.

### 8. Engage in Backstabbing.

- Regularly badmouth their workers or superiors.
- Lacking respect and restraint, these leaders will lose their moral authority to lead as a result.

### 9. Avoid Work.

- When the going gets tough, they disappear.
- When leaders avoid or delegate their hands on work, they send a clear message: You're on your own.

### 10. Won't Listen.

- They are so superior...or so they think.
- They cut people off to avoid a discussion.
- These leaders must always have their way.
- Where employees have no say, they have no stake or claim in the situation.

### 11. Afraid to Discipline.

- Most leaders have no problems about going after those unhappy employees.
- Sometimes, being courageous requires leaders to discipline their friends, the ones who have furthered their careers and know their secrets.



## 2.05 - Lion Hearted Leadership

### 12. Don't Follow Through.

- But nothing ever seems to get done.
- Sure, they always have some explanation.
- “Want to be” leaders are starters.
- Real leaders are finishers.

### 13. Don't Think for Themselves.

- Often, leaders hide out among the people looking for others to find the solutions.
- They believe uniformity equals safety – staying in and with the crowd of people.
- These leaders rely on rules, structure, and deference.

### 14. Hide Behind Power.

- As leaders, they possess the stature that titles confer.
- What's more, they can leverage hundreds of people to realize their goals.
- But what happens when leaders feel overmatched and threatened?
- How do they wield their power and the apparatus they control?

### 15. Won't Grow or Change.

- "I don't want to hear it." Can you think of a worse phrase coming from a leader?
- When leaders grow certain of their strengths is when those strengths become weaknesses.
- Leadership requires the humility to see that alternatives aren't threats.
- And it involves an awareness that distinguishes the company's best interests from their own interests.

### 16. Not Authentic.

- Few things can discredit a leader faster than being perceived as phony.
- And they expose a team that lacks the courage to trust and respect its people.

### 17. Don't Connect with People:

- Relationships require us to step outside ourselves, to become vulnerable and bare who we really are.
- Leaders put up those tough and distant personas, as they look past people to deter any interaction.
- In doing so, they don't connect or learn what drives their people.
- As a result, these leaders never get the most out of them. Relationships take time.

### 18. Can't Adjust to Failure.

- They crawl into a shell. They try to cover it up.
- When that fails, they blame or bargain. Some persevere and come out wiser.
- Others get stuck and remain repeating the same mistakes.
- A few just give up, laying blame on timing, circumstance, and fate.

### 19. Accept Only Power Not People.

- Leadership style is transactional or positional: The motives are selfish and dishonest.
- No concern for the wellbeing of anybody else.
- The desire for power leads to use of deception.
- The leadership style is manipulative.
- To achieve and maintain absolute power.



## 2.05 - Lion Hearted Leadership

### 20. No Vision for the people flowering.

- Unwilling to make necessary changes to help the community.
- Only concerned about their position.
- When their ability is questioned they come up with excuses or blame others for their failures.
- The result of this type of leadership leads to tension and frustration.

### 3. Characteristics of Leadership. (Good Leadership or Courageous Leadership)

***Real courage is a mentality that's reflected in our day- today lives by our actions and decisions and not only by what we just say. It requires awareness, openness, and perseverance – a decision of the heart!  
As a man thinks in his heart so is he! (Prov. 23:7)***

#### 1. Good Leaders Understand The Circle of Life.

- They understand the responsibility and boundaries of their jurisdiction.
- They understand the "Circle of Life" and has made sure his people are properly educated as to the expectations of a thriving organization.

#### 2. Good Leaders Use Transformational Leadership.

- They demonstrate transformational Leadership – helping people to transform to their full potential.
- They do not use force or manipulation, instead provided discipline and unconditional love.
- They learn to be patient and understanding. They are willing to invest time and effort into potential leaders.

#### 3. Good Leaders Display Motivational Leadership;

- They display motivational leadership skills towards their people.
- They encourage (to put courage into) people to be strong and courageous.
- Whenever we encourage others they in turn become confident and gain respect for themselves.

#### 4. Good Leaders Work In A Process Of Development.

- Leadership is not a display of power but a process of development and discipline.
- We can't always depend on someone else to do everything for us nor should we expect that our mentors are always going to be there.

#### 5. Good Leaders Know The Responsibilities & Duties.

- They becomes aware of the responsibilities and the duties that are necessary and fulfil them.
- They accept them without complaint.

#### 6. Good Leaders Discover Their Identity & Potential.

- They are no longer enslaved by his past but become a full-grown.
- They are willing to face rejection, confrontation and uncertainty.
- They are courageous at the right moment and rise to display the true characteristics of a leader.

#### 7. Good Leaders Become The Role Model For Others.

- They understand that they are acting as a role model for others.
- The ultimate compliment to the leader is when people ask what would my role model do in this case?



## 2.05 - Lion Hearted Leadership

### 8. Good Leaders Exude Integrity.

- Integrity is congruence between what you say and what you do, as well as what you say about what you did, integrity is the KEYSTONE of leadership.

### One final word on and about leadership

**Leadership is not about self or what can I get from the people under my leadership or how can I benefit from others, it is about working together to reach the target or goal that is set before us! True leadership is about putting OTHERS FIRST helping them to grow and develop and SELF LAST – it is called SACRIFICE!**

**A football team may have a captain and a vice captain but that does not make them better than the other team members, just more responsible and more accountable! They are responsible to develop the talents and abilities of the others.**

**True leaders don't lead through techniques of control, domination, intimidation, manipulation or fear – If God does not control or dominate us then we as leaders have no right to control or dominate others or be by other people!**

**Jesus is always the true example of Leadership – study His ministry in the Gospels on how He led, He did not use worldly techniques, He used the Word of God and the force of "Love" to motivate and bring out the best in people, there full God given potential!**

**JESUS IS LORD!**