**LeMay Family and Friends.**

**Bible Study**

**Date: Monday - August 23, 2021.**

**7pm - 8pm Eastern**

**Title: To get the performance that you want from someone, do it for them yourself, first.**

**Theme: The Golden Rule.**

**Text: Matthew 7:12,** (Therefore all things whatsoever ye that men would do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets).

**Supporting Scriptures:**

**1 Timothy 4:12,** (Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity).

**James 1:19,** (Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath)

**1 Peter 5:1-4,** To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ’s sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: 2 Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

**Format: (*Virtual*).**

**Study Outline:**

1. **Read text and Scriptures.**
2. **Read the short story.**
3. **Discuss the text, supporting scriptures and the short story.**
4. **Discuss questions.**

**Short Story:**

When I consider an act of charity or humility it often leads me to ponder things that are intangible in their nature. Such as feeding the homeless, or spending time with seniors who are shut in, or visiting the incarcerated. These are all noble and good deeds, that bring joy and help and joy others lives.

But I wanted to examine the dynamics of offering seeds of leadership as fruits and as tangibles skills and characteristics that can be offered to those who need them and or to derive a desired result from someone.

I’ll use an example of my own experiences as an illustration and a backdrop for this short story. It is one that I can never forget and one that is forever imbedded in my psyche. Once when I was in the Navy, and as a very junior airman, I was working as a janitor in the Aircraft Hanger heads, (bathrooms).

I was there complaining to myself and to God, about having to stick my hand into a toilet and clean it. I mean the idea that someone as articulate and suave as I thought I was, was assigned to clean toilets. I’d aspired of working in intelligence; but the Squadron command had other plans for me, for a while.

This particular morning, I was especially pissed about my life right now, and where my life was heading. Complaining all the way from toilet to toilet, as I observed the lime build-up that seemed to get thicker and thicker in each toilet.

Then, out of no wear the second most senior commander of the squadron walks in. The X.O., of the squadron walks into and enlisted man’s head. He walks straight over to me, and I freeze. I over him a salute with a toilet brush in my hand, that spattered toilet water all over his nice white shirt.

He said nothing, and rather salute me back, he said, “at ease”. I went to the at ease posture and he took the toilet brush out of my hand. He then turned away from me and walked over to a urinal. It was the filthiest, foulest urinal in the head. And the commander stuck the brush in the urinal, as he raised up his sleeve, simultaneously, with the other hand.

I was speechless. I couldn’t believe what I was seeing. Was this some kind of a joke? Was he mocking me? We he just out of his mind? He scrubbed and scrubbed, as the water from the urinal splashed on his wrist. I couldn’t believe what I was seeing.

After a while, the urinal was all but white and sparkling, and the commander had worked up a sweat and it was running down on his brow. Then, he stopped cleaning, and he turned to me and handed me back the toilet brush. Then he said, “Cleaning toilets is one of the most important jobs, in this squadron. If they’re not clean diseases could spread amongst your shipmates.” We need you to do your best to clean these heads, your efforts won’t go unnoticed.”

Then, he turns and walks out of the head. I was floored. I stood there motionless contemplating the lesson and knowledge that had just been imparted unto me. Then it hit, I’d been given one of the most valuable lessons ever. And that is to demonstrate the thing that you expect from someone, first. Lead by example. Mine lesson had come from the very top of the chain of command, which was rare, so I didn’t take it for granted, and that lesson stuck with me ever since.

The example that my commander had given me spoke volumes of the same thing that Jesus was saying to his followers. In that we must be able to do the thing that we require of others. Putting ourselves in their shoes, helps us to contextualize what they’ll feel like.

With his quiet yet consistent delivery of his message of leading by example, my commander also demonstrated to me, that he was listening to me. Perhaps he’d been in a similar situation in his career where he had to do something for a sustained period that he didn’t want to, also. The Commander exemplifies James 1:19. In that he allows the processes to play out, quietly observing and waiting for the best time to intervene. Peter reminds us 1 Peter 5:1,4 that we are to work with the expectation that our leaders are observing us, and that we will receive a reward for our efforts.

There was another very memorable instance in my life few years later while serving in the Navy, when I working as an aircraft handler. There was an aircraft that had nose landing gear that never retracted during its flight. The danger was that no-one knew if the gear would collapse on the runway when it landed.

The plane landed, the landing gear didn’t retract, but the command was given to have someone go out on the active runway, and put a landing gear pin, in the nose wheel, as a precaution. That responsibility fell on my department. I was a supervisor, and I would have been within my rights to order a junior airman to do it. But I knew that I couldn’t ask someone to take a risk like that, just because I outranked them.

So, I drove a tractor out the aircraft on the active runway and coordinated with crew to flutter the props down slow enough to allow me to go under the belly of the plane. The crew in cockpit were looking at me as if to say, “nice knowing you LeMay.” I was petrified all the way and praying all the way as I inserted the pin into in, but I got it done. I knew that I had to do it, as the leader of my team. I knew that I had to take this risk and not pass that burden on to my subordinates. Knowing that the aircraft could very well fall on me at any time.

I’ve often contemplated the burden that Jesus had on his shoulders, knowing that his job was to become a scapegoat for humanity. I’ve often thought about what it would feel like to have to take one, for all of humanity. To lose your position of comfort and wealth, to become a lowly carpenter who would be marginalized his entire life and relegated to being a human being.

In the text, (Matthew 7:12), we see Jesus admonishing his followers and disciples to do unto others, as you would have them do unto you. Jesus gives us an example of what it is to be a servant, as well as a leader. Just as my commander in the squadron had done. Jesus humbled himself, just as my commander had, to teach me a lesson, from the perspective of someone who understands what it means to lead and to follow.

Jesus also teaches us that there should also be a greater incentive beyond earning a paycheck, for labouring. He teaches us that we are to work as though God himself is inspecting our work, but not from the perspective of ridiculing it, but for the purpose of rewarding us, down the road.

Putting their hands to the plow, having skin in the game and being willing to go to jail for social justice causes, are the kind of values that I admire in our public servants and in church leaders.

I personally don’t feel it’s fair to expect someone to adopt my habits or conform to my expectations, just because I want them to. I have learned to persuade the lady in my life to do the things that I desire, by showing her love, kindness, tenderness, and patience. In this way, I am leading her by example, rather than badgering her, or brow beat her over a performance that I seek from her.

Shepherding her, gently and over time; allowing her to realize my true and sincere love her. And for her to see how my patience and guidance will render dividends for us, later. Day by day, with compassion and kindness, with the hope and expectation that she will one day receive the revelation that I am here to show how to be loved and that she is so greatly loved.

This is the way that Jesus led his flock. And that is with love, affection and by demonstration.

Questions:

1. How did you convince your chilldren to eat their vegie’s?
2. What comes to mind when you think of how you convinced, persuaded your spouse/former spouse, to do something that you wanted them to do?

1. How do you persuade your subordinates/colleagues to perform the way?
2. What do you do when, someone doesn’t do what you wanted them to do?
3. Why do think is a way to show someone that you love them?
4. How do you think someone feels when they have to do something that you want them to do, that they don’t want to?
5. What incentives do you think would be good to incentivise people to save more of their money?
6. What do you think men need to learn when it comes to them getting what they want from their woman?
7. What do you think that women need to learn when it comes to them getting what they want from their man?
8. What does sacrifice mean to you?
9. What does compromise mean to you?

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