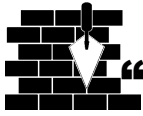


REHOBAM - “How Do You Lead: Power Or Authority?”



“Building Blocks”

1. **(Q1-4:7)** It is likely that being “responsible” for a month’s supply of food for Solomon and his household did *not* mean “out of pocket” expenses for these twelve men. Rather, they were “responsible” for *collecting* the provisions/money from those living in their particular jurisdiction. 1 Kings 4:22-23 tells us the incredible amount of this “provision!”
2. **(Q1-5:1-14)** It is interesting that Solomon forced his fellow Israelites to do the work on the Temple without pay, yet paid the pagan king of Tyre for his services (cf. 5:6).
3. **(Q2)** The two building projects were sequential, not simultaneous or overlapping. He built the Temple, and when it was finished, he began work on his palatial complex (cf. 9:10). It is also worth pointing out that it is both reasonable and realistic to assume that the Israelites had less difficulty being forced to work on a Temple for Yahweh than they did a palace for Solomon! National sacrifice is also always much easier to accept during times of war more than during times of peace (cf. 4:24-25).
4. **(Q9)** This is a *very* significant passage for this study. First of all, Jesus actually describes the two models of leadership introduced in this chapter. However, he says that the “power model” is the method of those *outside* the Kingdom. He goes on to teach that in order to *follow* him (i.e. allow Jesus to truly lead me), I must be a different type of leader of others. He then lays out the “authority model” as the proper model for those who follow him, and says that *this* model characterizes true followers of Jesus because it was *his* way of leading. Keep in mind that this entire section of Jesus’ teaching was preceded by an outlandish request of James and John for more *power!*
(Q11-Jn 13) It is worth noting here that Jesus not only served those who disagreed/disliked him, he did so *publicly*. You can’t “give an example” to those you are leading, by always serving in private. Jesus washed Judas’ feet publicly, not privately. He *served* Judas, but the other eleven saw it; they didn’t just hear about it.
5. **(Q11-Gal)** The characteristics that accompany spiritual growth and maturity for individual believers should also characterize Christians who lead. These virtues in this passage describe a servant leader who leads by authority, not power. Those Paul speaks of in 5:26 characterize those who lead by power. They are also (by implication) those who are *not* walking or living by the Spirit.
6. **(Q11-2 Tim)** Being “right” must always be understood first and foremost as being “right” with God more than being “right” in an argument. I must be *like him* even in the way I disagree and correct—two responsibilities of leaders.



“Stumbling Stones”

1. **(Q5)** In all fairness, this principle is somewhat context-dependent. A guard in a prison operating on the “authority principle” will have different standards from a second grade teacher operating on the same principle.
2. **(Q6)** God *does* punish and discipline his people and he *will* judge sin with a fearsome wrath. But, God by his own disclosure, is “slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.” “Power” is not his preferred method of dealing with people. Golgotha screams this truth to us.



“Going Deeper”

1. **(Snapshot)** Using the ideas of this chapter as your basis, who are the people over whom you serve as “leader?” (Think hard, the list is longer than you probably think.)
2. **(Q7)** What does the “will” have to do with this question? In other words, *whose* wills are involved in each of these two models, and how are they involved? Is the difference significant?
3. **(Q9)** Would it be a fair statement to say that one of the ways to determine who is really *following* Jesus is by how they lead others? Explain.
4. **(Q11-1 Cor)** Are all leaders also followers? Explain. Should Christian leaders from time to time tell those they lead *who* they are following? What would this accomplish for both the leader and those led?
5. **(Q11-Gal)** Do you think of the “fruit of the Spirit” (the evidence of sanctification) as something that characterizes *all* of your relational spheres, or only some of them? (Be honest!)
6. **(Q11-1 Thess)** Which do you think is worse for a leader: “professional distance” (aloofness) or too much vulnerability? Defend your answer.
7. **(Q11-Heb)** What do you think it means to “watch over” someone’s soul? Do you think of “soul care” in the relationships in which you lead? Explain.