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### ***People Spot Missile: Leadership***

I was recently asked why a certain group of churches had not fared well. I gave a simplistic answer. “It is leadership!” I said. As I pondered that question and my response, I knew that I had to expand that comment.

Leadership is the capacity to direct others in a specific direction. I was in Haiti. I was watching a teen-age Haitian boy for 10 days. Everywhere he went there were a dozen or more boys with him. He never went anywhere alone. He rather irritated the leaders at the mission compound because he was always a little bit outside the box. He was so articulate in Creole and English. I remember on my last day there I called him by name and said, “You are a leader. My only question is will you lead for good or evil?” The last thing I had heard of him, he had helped some missionaries get to the airport in very difficult times.

Leadership is an innate God given gift. You either have it or you don't. Everybody can cultivate the leadership gifts they have. Everybody can be a better leader than they are at the present time. But a person who is a 5 on a scale of 1-10 will never be able to jump to a 10.

Leaders must develop a passion for a specific assignment such as winning lost people to Christ, growing a specific church, or planting a new church. The passion is the driving force. What causes a fire to burn in your belly? The passion is a prerequisite to success in any area of life. It is the passion that drives the wagon. You may have tremendous leadership ability, but without passion there will be little or no achievement. You can't purchase passion. It is the fire burning in the belly that drives a leader to a total investment in a cause.

Leaders must have the ability to enlist others to join the cause. Someone said, “If you think you are a leader and turn around and no one is following, you are not. You are just taking a walk.” Leaders have to gather others around them who are buying into the cause. Then they have to have the capacity to let others do their jobs without control or interference. Those are two different gifts. Let's call that gathering and deployment. The more control that the top leader has to have, the more limited will be the achievement.

Leaders must have the ability to make good assessments regarding the steps required to achieve the goal. Frequently the leader has to really do some training to understand what must happen for the goals to be achieved. Once the path is clear and it is obvious what must be done, then the leader must devise a strategy and deploy the people to achieve the desired end. Again there are

two steps here. Designing the strategy and implementing the plan.

Leaders accept responsibility. The leader clearly understands that you praise in public and criticize in private. The leader accepts responsibility if a subordinate fails. The leader gives the credit if a subordinate succeeds.

I think of two of the men frequently mentioned as leaders in our time. Vince Lombardi was a leader. It is said he knew when to holler at a certain player, when to speak softly, and when to say nothing at all. He obviously gathered good assistants around him. But none of his assistants were really successful head coaches. Tom Landry was also recognized as a leader. He hired many assistants that also later went on to become successful head coaches.

Notice, there are two levels at this point. It takes a certain level of leadership to be the top person. It takes another skill set to be a good assistant. One can be a great assistant and not do well in the top spot. What we have been discussing is basic leadership skills.

***A Thought:*** “<sup>25</sup> Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— <sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Matthew 20” ***Jim Moss, Sr.***

*I am now available to present “The Role of the Church in the Civil War”, “Starting a New Service”, “Churches Have Personalities”, “People Spots”, “Does Your Church Really Care About People?” and “A Christian Perspective on Leadership Skills.” “Stewardship and Managing Debt” jm Volumes 1, 2, 3, and 4—“A History of the Civil War as Presented by the Church Advocate!” are now available. It is a history without the varnish of revision.*

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