



# PUTTING GOD FIRST IN LEADERSHIP: THE COST AND BENEFIT

with Cal Walters

## ▶ FOCUS VERSES

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.  
Philippians 2:3-4

## ▶ DISCUSSION

- 1. Cal says his definition of redemption is “to be fully known and fully loved”: that is, someone knows everything about you, has seen you at your worst, but still loves you—as Jesus does.**
  - a. Do you have a person like that in your life right now?
  - b. Have you ever been that person for someone else?
  - c. What did that feel like?
- 2. Cal explains that Jesus was an extremely effective leader because He took the time to see in other people traits and abilities that they couldn't see in themselves.**
  - a. Have you ever spent time around a leader like that?
  - b. What traits or talents did this person help bring out that you hadn't noticed or given yourself credit for before?
- 3. Cal and Nate also talk about the cost of leadership, with one example being the time and effort it takes to get to know each individual person you're leading.**
  - a. In your capacities as a leader these days, what are some things you've had to sacrifice to be effective as a leader?



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- b. Have you ever thought it would be easier to give that leadership position up to someone else and just be a follower instead?
4. **Cal discusses how some leaders focus more on the perks of their leadership position than the responsibilities it entails, and how those leaders are ineffective—or, as he says, “They leave a lot of bodies behind them.”**
- a. Of the leaders you’ve worked or served under in your life, which ones were responsibility-focused, and which were more reward-focused?
- b. How did each of those people influence your life and your leadership style—for better or for worse?
5. **Discuss Cal’s statement that being a leader, particularly being a parent, means “you’re immediately confronted with your own selfishness.”**
- a. Do you feel like you’ve overcome that selfishness in your leadership roles—as a parent, boss, coach, or manager—or are there things you’re still reluctant to give up?
- b. If you did manage to give those things up, in what ways do you think that might make you a better leader?
6. **One of Cal’s bits of advice for people who want to become better leaders is to get to know yourself better and ask yourself questions. One of those questions is, “What would you want people to say about you at your funeral?”**
- a. What’s your answer to that question?
- b. If you died tomorrow, do you think they would say those things, or something different? Why?
7. **Have you ever gotten insight from another person—a boss, co-worker, friend, even a spouse or partner—about what your strengths and weaknesses are?**
- a. What did they tell you, and how did you respond to that assessment?
- b. How do you think those strengths/weaknesses affect your ability to be a strong leader?

