

This course is built on the foundation of the Church's two primary missions:

1. Matt 24:14; 28:19-20—Preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to the world.
2. John 21:15-17—Care for God's sheep

Course Assumption:

Leaders are "made," not "born." Most people can lead, given the proper motivation, training, direction and calling. This course follows in line with the Apostle Paul's admonition that God is calling many today who are the weak and base, in order to confound the mighty and wise (1 Cor 1:26-31). We are to become ambassadors for Christ (2 Cor 5:20) and ultimately kings and priests for God's kingdom. This course is intended to help you prepare for these responsibilities.

II. Why God Desires Leaders

Group Question: Why does God desire human leaders?

Matt 9:37-38—"Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.'"

- God wants and needs laborers to do His WORK!

1 Cor 12:28—God places positions of leadership in His Church.

- In a later class we will talk specifically about the offices of elder, deacon and deaconess.

James 1:27—Pure and undefiled religion is to visit the fatherless and widows and keep oneself unspotted from the world.

- God wants us to serve others within the congregation.

Ezk 22:30—God needs and wants people who will "stand in the gap."

- The Church today has many responsibilities to those inside and outside of the Body of Christ—we need people to help serve our congregations and do the Work of God.
- Being a leader is an honor and a privilege and God promises to reward those who serve him—In fact, He promises to reward in this life (Mark 10:29-30) and make us royalty in His Kingdom (Rev. 5:9-10).
- Being a leader also brings with it challenges and responsibility.

1 Sam 13:14—God searches for people after His own heart and places them as leaders and servants of His people.

III. Blessings and Cursings for Leaders

God promises to richly bless those who properly lead and serve in His Work. He also promises certain punishment for those who lead deceitfully and for dishonest gain. God's leaders must be familiar with both the blessings and cursings applicable for those in this role.

Matt 25:14-30—The parable of the talents indicates that God blesses those who are willing to take the talents that He has blessed them with, and "build on" or "grow them." But there is condemnation if we stagnate and *choose* not to grow.

Luke 17:1-2—Better for a millstone to be hung around one's neck than to cause one of Christ's spiritual little ones to stumble.

Matt 20:26—Serving comes before greatness.