

Living and
LEADING
I N M I N I S T R Y



J. MARK JORDAN

Living and Leading in Ministry

by J. Mark Jordan

©Copyright 2006 Word Aflame Press
Hazelwood, MO 63042-2299

Printing History: 2006, 2008

Cover design by Simeon Young Jr.

All Scripture quotations in this book are from the King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise identified.

All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced, stored in an electronic system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of Word Aflame Press. Brief quotations may be used in literary reviews.

Printed in United States of America

Printed by



WORD AFLAME PRESS
8855 Dunn Road, Hazelwood, MO 63042
www.pentecostalpublishing.com

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Jordan, J. Mark, 1948-

Living and leading in ministry : practical leadership principles you can use /
J. Mark Jordan.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 1-56722-684-1 (alk. paper)

1. Christian leadership. 2. Church work. 3. Pastoral theology. I. Title.
BV652.1.J67 2006

253—dc22

2006004122

CONTENTS

Preface	7
1. Lead by the Golden Rule	9
2. Never Be Above Asking Forgiveness	13
3. Never Publicly Embarrass Anyone	15
4. Permit Questions.	17
5. Operate from Your Strengths	21
6. Attitudes Will Show Through.	25
7. Walk Slowly through the Crowd	27
8. Do Your Homework before You Speak.	31
9. Up Front, Talk; One-on-one, Listen.	33
10. Be Accountable.	37
11. Good Things Happen in the Atmosphere of Rising Expectations	41
12. Leadership Takes People from Lower to Higher	45
13. If You Do Not Talk about the Solutions, Do Not Talk about the Problems	49
14. Capitalize on Momentum.	53
15. Avoid Coming to Your Own Defense	57
16. Honor Former Leadership.	61
17. Do Not Die from Someone Else's Disease.	65

18. When Winning Is Losing	69
19. Reputation: You Can Not Touch This.	71
20. Do Not Talk Too Much	75
21. Accept Generosity, but Do Not Expect It . . .	79
22. Stay Connected	81
23. Be Bold	85
24. Plan to Finish and Finish the Plan	89
25. When When Beats What	93
26. Create Visuals	97
27. You Get What You Pay For	99
28. Pace Your Change	103
29. Admit It: You Are Human	107
30. Avoid Giving Ultimatums	109
31. Figure Out Your Fear.	113
32. Conclusion	117



CHAPTER 1

GOLDEN RULE

Lead by the Golden Rule



Be the kind of leader you would want to sit under if you were a follower. Kindness, respect, sincerity, and common courtesy are vital.

People always laugh when I say that many leaders, whether pastors, CEOs, or coaches, could not stomach their own leadership. All of us have chafed under leaders like that. Through executive fiat, subjective judgmentalism, and pure selfishness, such leaders are often blind to their own tactics. They will not or cannot consider the honest feelings of the people they lead. If subjected to the same treatment they give others, they would go ballistic.

Once, the father of a solid, promising family in the church I pastor came to me and said they were weighing a move to the West Coast for a job opportunity.

Living and Leading in Ministry

My heart sank. I had great plans for them in our church life and leadership. As I brooded over the prospect of losing them, God began to talk to me. He seemed to say, “What if you were the one contemplating a major move? Would you want to be shot down for no other reason than that the pastor wanted to keep you in his congregation? Or would you want his primary interest to be your family’s welfare and advancement?” I felt ashamed. I knew that if the shoe were on the other foot, I would want the freedom to pursue the will of God in my life and have my pastor’s blessing when I did it. My response went something like, “Well, Brother, you have to do what is best for your family and the will of God. I am confident that you know how to pray and hear from heaven.” As it turned out, the family stayed and became a vital force in the congregation. I have always believed that God was teaching me a lesson in leadership.

We have heard the same thing in other ways: “What’s good for the goose is good for the gander; take your own medicine; practice what you preach,” etc. Some who ascend to a position of leadership, however, think themselves to be above these homely aphorisms. Well, followers may be sheep, but they are not pawns. They must not be used or abused. People are not chattel, disposable assets, collateral, or negotiable property. Leaders have a sacred obligation to see their own reflection in the faces of their followers.

Lead by the Golden Rule

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted (Galatians 6:1, NKJV, emphasis mine).