

TAKE YOUR LEADERSHIP
TO ANOTHER LEVEL!

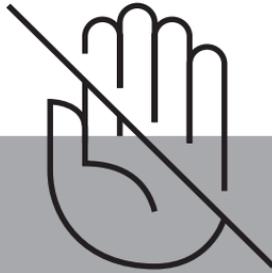
LEADERSHIP UNLEASHED

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 AVAIL

17

LESSON ONE



**NEVER ASK
ANYONE TO DO
WHAT YOU ARE
UNWILLING TO DO**

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“Never ask anyone to do what you are unwilling to do.” This is one of the most important ministry mantras I have put into practice over the last three decades of my leadership journey. Why? It matters! Setting the example sets the tone for any organization.

“Never ask anyone to do what you are unwilling to do.”

Too many leaders tell someone to pick up the trash in the hallway when they—themselves—won’t even make an attempt. I have often told our team, “I will never ask you to do anything I will not do or have not done.” It is a slogan that is said in and around our offices a lot.

You see, if serving is beneath us, then leadership is beyond us. Nothing should be beneath us. Leaders must be willing to do anything they ask their team to do. Notice that I did not say they are *supposed* to do it, but they must be willing. It’s a posture of the heart. If we are unwilling to do it, then we should not ask anyone else to do it either.

When a group sees their team leader setting the bar high by being a great example, it motivates them. It is inhibitive to the success of any business, nonprofit, or church for leaders to avoid doing something because it is “beneath” them.

One of the most inspiring traits of a great leader is humility. This principle is all about being humble. Employers, entrepreneurs, and even pastors will become their own lid if they lead

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with pride. The one who can reach down to pick up the piece of paper off the floor is now qualified to lead a Fortune 500 company. Don't limit the power of humility.

A lot of people like to tell other people what to do. Honestly, there are times when I like it too! However, the real test of leadership is not just telling someone what to do; it's showing them how to do it. Setting an example of servanthood and sacrifice is a must for every leader.

The easiest leaders to follow are the ones who are serving in the trenches with you. If you look over your life, you will quickly discover that the employers you enjoyed working for the most were the ones who didn't just know the way; they showed you the way.

Now, as leaders, we cannot do everything. Notice the principle: never ask anyone to do what you are unwilling to do! At some point in your leadership, you will not be able—for whatever reason—to do the things you did when you first started. As your business, church, or nonprofit grows, the less you will be able to do, but you must always be willing to do it!

When my wife and I first started our church, we did everything. Our church was portable, so we had to set up and tear down before and after our services. Mary would run the kids' ministry, and I would run the adult services. Everything fell to us—even the follow-up on every first-time guest. In the beginning, it was challenging, but we never complained about it. We just did it.

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When leaders complain about what they are doing, they are revealing their unwillingness to do the mundane. I learned many years ago: if we are unwilling to do the mundane, then we will be unable to do the magnificent. As leaders, we must set the example by never asking anyone to do what we are or were unwilling to do.

So, let's get out in the trenches and lead by example!

UNLEASH YOUR THOUGHTS

Where have you allowed pride to keep you from doing something you felt was beneath you?

What are some ways that you can show those you lead that you are willing to serve alongside them?
