

## **LEADERSHIP LESSON # 87: THE CARDINAL SIN OF CHURCH LEADERSHIP – LOWERING THE BAR – MATTHEW 19:16-24**

OUTLINE BY DWIGHT MOSS

Some facts about the “bar”:

1. The bar is **Jesus**.

The Law and Scriptures are a reflection of Himself. To lower the standard would ask his followers to be something less than who He was and what the Bible calls for!

2. There is a **temptation** to lower the bar.

Even Jesus set the bar high, he never lowered it! Jesus didn't say, “I am *a* way, *a* truth...” Many leaders are not lowering the bar for their **followers** but they lower it for **themselves** under the guise of helping others.

What Jesus did *not* say:

- He didn't pat him on the back and say, “That's **close enough**.”
- He didn't set him up as an **example** to others.
- He didn't put him in front of the class and ask him to teach or take another leadership position.

“He that is not willing to sacrifice *everything* for the cause of God, is really willing to sacrifice *nothing*.”—*Barnes' Notes on the New Testament*

3. There are serious **consequences** of lowering the bar. The moment we lower the standard, we **hurt** our people. **Jesus** set the standard. It is our responsibility to keep the standard where it is at. Anything else is a **disgrace** to God.

The consequences of lowering the bar is that we cripple our people for life! We set the expectations so low that it appeals to no one other than those who are already committed to **mediocrity**. Mediocrity **repels** leaders. Revelation 3:15-16

4. It's worth **keeping** the bar where it is.

Where the bar is set will determine who you attract.

5. Leaders who keep the bar high will face **loneliness**. “Not everybody who **starts** with you will **finish** with you.” Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:9-10

The measure of strength of your class/ministry – **sending power**! The mark of a great teacher is not one who builds a large class but one who follows Ephesians 4:11-12. This is only one level of the bar – **multiplying** your ministry.

6. Who is going to hold the bar? **You, the teacher!**

The only way you can do that is to **live** what you teach! A leader should never be **preaching** where they are not **walking**! Colossians 3:23-24

“The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor.” Vince Lombardi

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