LEADERSHIP 1

DIFFERENT TYPES OF LEADERS - LEADERSHIP STYLES

In the gospel tradition the four gospels are identified with the 4 creatures in front of God's throne namely the lion the ox, the man and the eagle.

Matthew is the Lion because Mathew is mainly written to the Jews and Jesus is the Lion of the tribe of Judah; Mark is the Ox since the verb is oftentimes present and immediate and you will find words like immediately or straightway; Luke is the man since Luke is showing Jesus as having this human approach with a lot of compassion since Luke while John is the eagle because John goes very deep into the depths of the love of God just as an eagle fly very high.

So let us look at leadership styles.

1. The Autocratic Leader - the Lion
Generally in the age of democracy this style of leadership is really shunned and but now when even democracy(or democratically elected leaders) is starting to fail nations some are starting to think that maybe it was not such a bad idea.

2. The Servant Leader - the Ox
This is the leader that leads by example and his work ethic is very high. He actually work and serves you. He is an extremely hard worker.

3. The Democratic Leader - the man
The democratic leader surrounds himself by able knowledgeable persons and then leads by consensus.

4. The Visionary Leader - this leader is an intellectual and an idealist and normally is before his time but leads by a selling a vision of the ideal future - the future that he sees.

There are two references in the Bible to the four creatures before God's throne that cry Holy, Holy, Holy.

The one is in Ezekiel 1 verse 10 - "As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle." and the other in Revelation 4 vers 7 - "And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle."

The differences between the two texts are that the creatures in Ezekiel had four faces while the creatures in revelations only one. However it might be the same creatures.

The point is that leadership could be balanced between these four basic leadership styles or one could be very much the one or the other. I think the ideal is to be a strong leader in one of the major leadership styles and weaker maybe on a second leadership style but definitely working on the remaining two where you know you are weak.

In order to compare the leadership styles I am doing a SWOT exercise. Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. I am just doing this in one area and that is say in relation to decision making on a church board or counsel of elders. But you can do the same exercise with regards to a project say an evangelistic week of crusades or even the churches ability to time to change or start new programs etc.

So how will the Pastor/Leader act when a decision must be made?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STYLE</th>
<th>STRENGTHS</th>
<th>WEAKNESS</th>
<th>OPPORTUNITY</th>
<th>THREATS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>autocratic</td>
<td>quick decision making process</td>
<td>individualistic - not in depth/best solution</td>
<td>critical times very needed</td>
<td>could be offensive or rule by fear/ suddenly overthrown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>democratic</td>
<td>keep everybody happy solution</td>
<td>many different views - not always the right</td>
<td>very accepted practice</td>
<td>could procrastinate and be watered down solution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>servant</td>
<td>decision making is just another job</td>
<td>work harder - not smarter</td>
<td>raise up loyalty</td>
<td>could be out of sync with the time we are living in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>visionary</td>
<td>very well researched/ best solution</td>
<td>take a long time/ procrastinate/ indecisive/ too intellectual</td>
<td>in good times ideal leader</td>
<td>could be ahead of his time and be rejected</td>
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Obviously one could do the exercise on many different levels and it will be good but that won't change the fact that you are probably only gifted in one area with a secondary gifting also working too a lesser degree. But at least you can have the foresight to accommodate more and be a better leader.

The final thought I want to leave with you is that I think it is good to know who you are - what is your leadership style and then see what is a secondary and then make room for growth in the other or at least get a secondary tier of leaders that will have these strengths that you don't have. Jesus was complete and all the full fivefold ministry was evident in Him as well as all the leadership styles - that is exactly why there are four gospels!

**Jesus Christ remains our great leader and example!**