

# From the Handbook of Business, the Bible

## # 22: To be the greatest, be a servant

Over the years I've seen many examples of business owners who are good technicians, but poor bosses and hopeless leaders, unable to achieve greatness due to the way they treat people.

Two in particular come to mind: one required his top salesman to act as manager; the other expected his top tradie to take calls & manage things in his absence; neither received extra pay!

Owners like these are only in business to make money, using others as a means to that end. I sense neither realises they are actually doing it; it's the way they are wired seeing no pain in others!

...I know both staff members; what they say about their bosses could not be aired on radio!

At the first opportunity these managers will likely resign, to seek other work, potentially with the opposition! All for the want of a few \$\$, some respect & genuine care from the owner/leader.

### What does the Bible say about this situation?

Let's measure these owners against by what Jesus lived & taught: **Matthew 23:11-12 (TLB)**...

*"The more lowly your service to others, the greater you are. To be the greatest, be a servant; those who think themselves great will be disappointed & humbled; those who humble themselves will be exalted"*

...Servant leaders don't treat their staff as a commodity; and they certainly don't underpay people

### Is there a Biblical example showing how business owners should act?

Indeed, there is: the Centurion in **Matthew 8:5-13**, a great leader with 3 traits of a servant:

#### 1. The well-being of others was his main concern:

- \* Centurions were important, yet he personally took charge of a dying servant's case
- \* In terms of your business: People matter, they are not commodities to be used -  
...**Staff** need to see owners as servant leaders that respect, care for & listen to them; and how hard would it be to show **customers** you care with a promise "my personal guarantee, if you have a problem, let us know and we will fix it, fast".

#### 2. He understood authority comes with responsibility:

- \* He was ultimately under Caesar's authority & he had authority over 100 soldiers
- \* He recognised Jesus had authority over sickness & death...and could heal his servant
- \* In terms of your business: Jesus has given you authority to run His business; and He has provided the Handbook on how to do it; so, humble yourself & follow the rules.

#### 3. He quickly recognised a problem he couldn't solve:

- \* He didn't foist the issue onto others, nor abdicate his role in getting the best solution
- \* In terms of your business: You don't have all the answers; look to your team and other counsellors/mentors for help; then back your judgement, trusting their advice.

### What's the main takeaway from today's 100<sup>th</sup> episode?

***Servant leadership is the best way to build a great team & organisation, but few do it this way. Jesus did; the Centurion did; as Christians we must too, it's our destiny in Christ Jesus.***