

Jesus: The High Road Leader *Jesus Embraces Authenticity*

Quick Opener Two Minute Drill

- A. In your own words, what is Authenticity? B. Why do you think it matters in Leadership?

Authenticity **Authentic** – Being Real or Genuine **Authenticity** – The quality of being Real or Genuine

I. Why does Authenticity Matter for Leaders?

- Authenticity makes leaders relatable.
- Authenticity helps build understanding, trust, common ground and synergy in teams.

II. Jesus Knew, Lived and Led from His Authentic Identity!

The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas...to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under His power, and that He had come from God and was returning to God; so, He got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist and...He began to wash His disciples' feet.... John 13:1-5

Do We Know Our Authentic Identity?

New Creation in Christ | 2 Cor. 5:17 Sons of God | 1 John 3:1 Holy Spirit Filled | 2 Timothy 1:7

Knowing Authentic Identity Enables Service with Nothing to Prove!

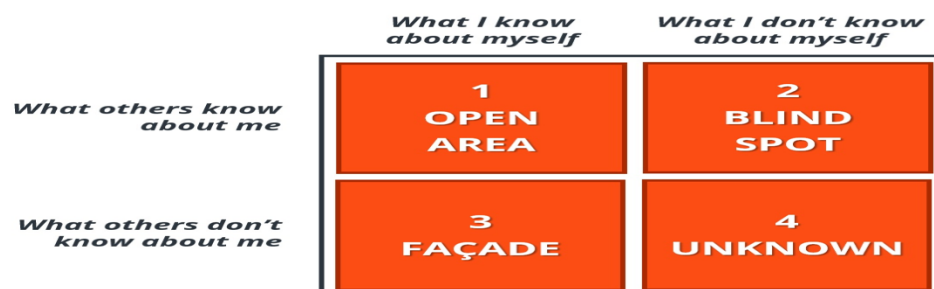
III. Shame and Fear Leads to Covering and Hiding

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so, they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves... But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" The man answered, "I heard You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so, I hid." Genesis 3:7,9-10

IV. Hypocrisy and Self Promotion

Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but, on the inside, you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness. Matt 23:27-28

V. Authenticity in Community: The Johari Window



VI. Authenticity in Community... *The Way to Authentic Self*

- **Confession** – Honesty about Pain, Problems and Sin. Begins to Expose False Beliefs.

Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” James 5:16

- **Repentance** – Renouncing False Beliefs and Asking God for Truth
- **Transformation** – Receiving, Believing and Living from Truth

Living Sacrifices – Renewed Minds – Proving God’s Will Romans 12:1-2

VII. A Caution About Authentic Honesty

My honest feelings are not always true – yet I must have a safe place where I can express my Pain, Problems and Sin to Expose Blind Spots. But remember – embracing Authenticity doesn’t mean Always Expressing Everything I’m Thinking or Feeling! Expressing honest feelings out loud in the **wrong context** may do serious damage.

Authenticity from Authentic Identity

Nothing to Fear! Nothing to Hide! Nothing to Prove! Freedom!

Table Discussion Questions

1. How can a leader model authenticity?
2. Why can authenticity sometimes feel risky in leadership?
3. In 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, Paul talks about “boasting in weakness.” How do you see this applying today in leadership?
4. What area of the Johari Window would you like to personally work on?

