



“One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

— Mark 12:28-31

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In their book *Leadership on the Line*, Ronald Heifetz and Marty Linsky write this about the importance of reaching out:

“Leadership is worth the risk because the goals extend beyond material gain or personal advancement. By making the lives of people around you better, leadership provides meaning in life. It creates purpose. We believe that every human being has something unique to offer, and that a larger sense of purpose comes from using that gift to help your organizations, families, or communities thrive. The gift might be your knowledge, your experience, your values, your presence, your heart, or your wisdom. Perhaps it’s simply your basic curiosity and your willingness to raise unsettling questions.”⁷

While this quote sounds like something that would have come from a religiously-centered text, this quote is ironically from a thoroughly secular leadership book. Christians are not the only ones who believe that our leadership is about more than getting the corner office.

But we *are* the ones who believe that human beings have been created in the image of God, and that our purpose is to glorify God with our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Heifetz and Linsky reference parts of what we have been discussing above: values, knowledge, heart, wisdom. They highlight the myriad ways that

leadership can be demonstrated. All too often we think of leadership in terms of “big ticket items,” such as a CEO heading up a company, a trailblazing entrepreneur creating a brand-new business, the senior pastor at your church.

But we can lead in so many, life-transformative ways — both big and small. And no matter the size or scope of the project, it *makes a difference*.

What matters is that we find the ways God has given to each of us to lead. Each of us has been given unique gifts and talents, and we have the opportunity to partner with God in bringing God’s love to the world.

We get to be God’s love made flesh.

God’s love for us extended into a remarkable act: the Divine becoming flesh. Incarnation is at the root of who we are as Christ-followers. As C.S. Lewis wrote: “The central miracle asserted by Christians is the Incarnation. They say that God became Man. Every other miracle prepares for this, or exhibits this, or results from this.”⁸ We love and follow the God who came to earth to live a fully human life, and who gave sacrificially of himself. When we give of ourselves to others, we are participating in the self-giving nature of God.

QUESTION:

What are ways that you have led this week? How could you lead next week?

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