



Example Not Some Uber-privileged Exception

“And Hezekiah commanded to offer the burnt offering upon the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song of the Lord began also with the trumpets, and with the instruments ordained by David king of Israel. And all the congregation worshipped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded: and all this continued until the burnt offering was finished.” ~2

Chronicles 26:27-28, nlt

I really like the good example I read about of young Hezekiah, don't you? It makes me want to be a humble example rather than some pre-madonna type of uber-privileged exception!

Today, during a time when lead politicians and church leaders are voluntarily losing their credibility through constant lies and bribery to gain more power like they (not the Lord or the people) want for them ..in a day when they are subsequently losing the trust of their constituents.. this topic of integrity and being a good example is so very important!

Being a good example is so 24/7/365—it's what you really are when others are watching or not!

Yes, it's about fishers (Christian world changers) maintaining long-term godly character, credibility, the fruit of the Spirit, victory and consistency in their public and more private witness. As this hostile terroristic world of violence, greed and envy pushes forwards towards a Jew-n-Church-hating cashless society and the Great Tribulation, what could really be more imperative before a watching world? Yup, it is imperative.. when no mere human is watching (for God always sees) that we each remain zealously uncompromising spiritually as both salt and light!

How can any of us sufficiently talk about this stuff enough?

Far too often fishers of men, who are all privileged just to be serving in Christ's Kingdom, wander off at least in their mentalities. Hey, I think we can all be prone to take a stride from the Master's side on various levels if we are not careful. Once they (we) get some so called “experience”, or gain some reasonable

accomplishments under their belts (I personally don't have many..), and become so called respected or "seasoned" anglers if you will, they (really any of us if we let down or guard..) can actually abandon the right lifestyle of ceaseless vertical intimacy and then horizontal integrity ..including that righteous self-denial that they had before God was using them to reel willing people in.

Maybe you've encountered some like this? Think about the strong Christian leaders for a moment who no longer are.. who have long since understood their respective callings, their giftings and their worldwide Mandate, their great personal convictions.. that they decided upon and gained better knowledge about while prayerfully all alone fellowshiping with the Word of God.

Some of them, due perhaps to a sort of "position-familiarity" taken for granted, often start to chafe under the very rules that they have long sense dead-bolted to their hearts and souls ..or that they have long-term publicly endorsed. Sadly, Liney and I have seen far too many leaders over the years who vigorously preached holy moderation and then became cruel, adulterous, drug addicted non-moderate "wine conasures".. leaving their hurting spouses, their beat-up-children, their home congregations and even large bar tabs for generous hosting local churches to deal with. The groundless threats, the harsh religious verbal abuse, the false accusations, the lusts, the materialistic covetousness, the cronyism and constant nepotistic covering for erroring non-changing family members-become-church-elders didn't just start over night. They each gradually made some wrong choices that led to more little compromises and they each started seeing themselves as "exceptions" who would say (sometimes out loud..) "Touch not God's anointed!"

Little compromises lead to a great one, but why apostatize or backslide when God can grace you to become more fruitful? Think about how any of us could get too comfortable in our certain churchy-routines to the point of getting careless. Think about the personal convictions and ministry assignment that the Lord has given to you. Have you discovered your special gifting(s) yet, Christian?

Not to sound too deprecating here.. but are you truly grateful or do you (or I) feel you deserve much better than what you currently enjoy in the way of blessings from the Lord? Do you feel that God's dim people are in the way of your blessings? Don't we as sinners deserve the torments of Hell? Do you still walk in truth with grace, love and holy fear, refusing to be confident in your flesh? You know that God has called all of us to lovingly and boldly witness to unbelievers by life, attitude and word, even when He hasn't called all of us to become evangelists. Have we sinned by neglect of prayer or in telling others cuz we just don't care?

Ok, so what's my point with these pointed questions? God wants you effective over the long haul, but there are pitfalls and temptations to avoid.

Any of us can so quickly forget the number one rule of being an effective fisher for souls ..or say a leader walking in the Jesus Christ of the Bible, namely.. **people will do what they see of you more than what they hear from you! Yup, potentially those who disciple other believers to fish and minister, will reproduce what they really are spiritually themselves. So please take careful heed to your life, to your attitude and to your doctrinal beliefs. Seek first Christ and His specific will for you--make this your ultimate priority! That's why it is important for any of us to never adopt (even mid-stream) ..some crazy *Do what I tell ya, rather than what I do before ya* kind of mentality.**

Hey, I can blah, blah all day long about how you and I can "example it" (this life in the Spirit), so I realize that I have three fingers pointing back at me here. Therefore I tremble as I type. Ich will ein Beispiel sein. Hilfe Herr!

"Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity." ~1 Tim. 4:12

"Then Peter replied, 'I see very clearly that God doesn't show partiality.'" ~Act. 10:34

"Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern." ~Phl. 3:17

But if you really want to become an effective soul-winner / disciple-maker in the Master's hands, then **you (and I) must, by the power of His Spirit, incarnate if you will.. the very life and moderate lifestyle that you desire to see in those that you minister to.**

Make a difference by daring to be different! ~Joseph Stowell

Show me the way, Lord, let my light shine as an example of good to mankind; help them to see the patterns of Thee, shining in beauty, lived out in me. ~Neuer

Yes you've got to go the distance with Jesus.. dying to self daily, choosing to take up your cross to follow Him ..by allowing Christ to live His supernatural life through you during all your waking hours. Yes, I must do this as well if I want to see the Lord move ..and see His results. **There are no "fisher-exceptions"**

and there are none of us who grow into becoming a “special exception-leader” if you will ..in God’s Kingdom.

These kind of I’m-an-exception thoughts, attitudes and actions might exist without a hitch in the upper echelons of power in different circles of the religious world or in cults built upon pride and deception, but listen! They are not at all OK for you and me.. not even for a little while! Too much is at stake here for countless not-yet-decided peoples (who might not have really heard the Gospel yet) that you and I care about and pray for! Why should you or I become a stumbling block or a reproach ..instead of a righteous example.. for the weak babies who watch?

“For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps.” ~1 Pet. 2:21

“Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ.” —2 Cor. 5:20

“For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.” ~ Jn. 13:15, nkjv

You already know how none of us Christians ever out-grow of the need to example of Christ’s life of joyful obedience and appropriate sacrifice. Sure, mere religious people (as I used to be while growing up) can in vain sacrifice a lot, but never forget that to obey in and under the Lordship of Christ is far better and more important than to merely sacrifice according to your own or to a denomination’s dictates. Of course there are indeed times for us Christians where it seems to be no sacrifice at all while we worship and serve Christ. It’s just a joy to. There seems to be so many times of simply receiving and giving from our abundance. Liney and I do not want to drift off at all. We have been so blessed over the years and personally we’ve had so much fun living for Jesus, we just don’t live for the fun. We love the Blesser more than His blessings and by His grace want to keep it that way. No idols big or small!

The kings of Judah along with the masses of people there had drifted and drifted and drifted far away spiritually.. kinda like a big cruise ship without an anchor, or a rudder or an engine.. they floated aimlessly in dangerous worldly currents from any firm mooring, anchor or dock. There are nations like this today. How sad and tragic that the distance had become so great. Enter 25 year old Hezekiah. This man came along and inherited this unholy mess from his wicked father, King Ahaz. For Judah’s sake, Mister Hezzy if you will diligently sought to be a good example with the Lord. He wanted a solid lasting immovable anchor for these fickle people and he went after this to God’s glory!

Ya gotta be right with God, in order to help others get right. So after establishing a personal relationship with God, for he did according to all that his father in the faith, David, had done.. Hezekiah cleaned and started to repair God's Temple. He began with the entrance way fixing the doors (See 2 Chronicles 29:2-3). He already had a spiritual and practical Solution on his side. The he gathered the priests, the Levites and finally the rulers together and gave em a much needed pep-talk on consecration for he wanted them to become better examples. I love how he persuasively recruited them to biblical voluntary worship first (v. 5-11). **Leaders ministering to the Lord is of course more important that leaders ministering to people, though both are good.** Hezekiah communicated a clear proclamation calling the masses to each turn of their own volition back to the God of the Bible (he was fishing for souls). And he effectively delegated well with and through the runners (no internet, TV, phones or PA systems back in the day..) and he didn't stop when these runners were mocked and made fun of (vv. 9-10). Pre-second-Advent, there will always be many negative perverse thinkers, closed-minded hateful peeps with hard rebellious hearts—people who simply hate godly authority.

The results? Prayers heard, loud rockin' music, upward praise with the right address on it, divine healing, and the Levites taught the people how to live with the good knowledge of the Lord as all leaders should do (vv. 20-22).

God used Hezekiah to restore legitimate worship of the Lord (the positive) and he also went a step farther by removing the lame idols (the negative – kinda like yanking out ugly weeds from a beautiful garden). I love how he repented personally and indentificationally before Jehovah from his heart, and how he then required a real change to happen in the Land. What a leader! What an example instead of making himself an exception! God can make us good examples too (Apply [2 Chronicles 7:14](#)).

Once the masses of people saw his good example of sincere worship and godly influence as an Old-Testament-world-changer, they wanted to follow him towards the Lord to do God's will from the heart .. and that is exactly what they did. They earnestly followed suit. So many of these events took place quickly in the Land 1.) because of the plans of a sovereign powerful God who replaced ungodly king Ahaz with his godly son and also because 2.) Hezekiah the son was humble enough to model the life of service that he also expected of others.

To become fishers who lead well, especially in the area of global or domestic evangelism, you and I must become and remain the type of godly influencers who follow the Lord's authority biblically, instead of becoming puffed up like those who see themselves as above good ethics, above inner biblical convictions given by the Holy Spirit, above delegated authorities in the Land or above the unchanging Law of the Lord. No Christian high or low is to be an exception!

Have a prayer request or some questions about knowing God ..and how to properly walk in Jesus Christ? At fish4souls.org click "[Contact](#)" and let us know! Perhaps we can help some. Follow.. [Facebook.com/ShareJesus](https://www.facebook.com/ShareJesus) or at [Twitter.com/kurtwvs](https://twitter.com/kurtwvs)

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