

## **The Soul of a Servant Part 2: Examined Leadership**

### **Spring Building Block of Peace 2025 Workshop**

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Scripture Verse Passages are AI generated

- **Consequences of Bad Leadership:**
  - **Suffering and Groaning:** Proverbs 29:2 states, "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people groan."
  - **Destruction and Evil:** A leader who takes advantage of the poor is compared to a hard rain that destroys crops, and those who refuse to obey the law promote evil.
  - **Foolish Leaders:** A foolish ruler hurts the people under him, while a ruler who hates wrong will rule for a long time.
  - **Corrupted Leaders:** Leaders who prioritize their own desires and wickedness can lead their followers down a similar path.
- **Examples of Bad Leadership in the Bible:**
  - **David and Bathsheba:** King David's moral failure, leading to the death of Bathsheba's husband, illustrates how power can corrupt.
  - **The Jewish Leaders:** The leaders who crucified Jesus were allowed to come into authority in Jerusalem, and it was they, in their evil behavior, who caused Jesus's earthly death.
- **God's Perspective on Leadership:**
  - **Accountability:** Every ruler is accountable to God for how they use their authority.
  - **God's Purpose:** God established government to suppress evil and maintain justice.
  - **God's Judgment:** When rulers become too evil, God will judge and punish them.

## Examined Leadership 2

Here's a more detailed look at biblical principles of good leadership:

- **Humility and Selflessness:**

Biblical examples and teachings highlight the importance of humility and selflessness in leadership. Leaders should prioritize the needs of others and be willing to serve, rather than seeking personal power or recognition.

- **Philippians 2:3:** "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves."
- **Matthew 20:26-28:** "It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

- **Serving Others:**

A key characteristic of good leadership is a willingness to serve others. Leaders are called to be servants, not rulers, and to prioritize the needs of their people.

- **John 13:13-17:** Jesus washes the feet of his disciples, demonstrating the importance of service in leadership.
- **Luke 22:26:** "But let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves."

- **Focus on God's Purposes:**

Biblical leaders are those who seek to fulfill God's purposes and obey his commands.

- **Acts 20:28:** "Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you are forced, but because you are eager to do it; not because of dishonest gain, but because you long to serve."

- **Leading with Integrity and Justice:**

Good leaders are called to be people of integrity and to uphold justice and righteousness.

- **Proverbs 11:14:** "Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in a multitude of counselors there is safety."
- **Psalms 78:72:** "With upright heart he shepherded them."

## Peace Meditations 3

### 1. Peace as a Gift from God:

- The Bible presents peace as a gift from God, not something humans can create or earn on their own.
- This peace is often described as surpassing human understanding (Philippians 4:7).
- Verses like "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you" (John 14:27) highlight the source of this peace.
- God's peace is a promise to those who trust in Him, as seen in Isaiah 26:3: "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you".

### 2. Peace in Relationships:

- **Peace with God:** The Bible emphasizes the importance of having a right relationship with God, which leads to inner peace.
- **Peace with Others:** The Bible calls believers to seek peace in their relationships with others, as seen in Romans 12:18: "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone".
- **Peacemakers:** Jesus calls those who actively work towards peace "blessed" (Matthew 5:9).

### 3. Peace as a State of Tranquility:

- The Bible uses peace to describe a state of tranquility and serenity, both within oneself and in one's circumstances.
- Verses like Psalm 4:8, "In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety," illustrate this concept.
- The peace of God is described as guarding hearts and minds (Philippians 4:7).

### 4. Peace and Actions:

- The Bible encourages believers to pursue peace and righteousness, as seen in Psalm 34:14: "Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it".
- It also emphasizes the importance of living in peace and avoiding conflict, as far as it depends on them (Romans 12:18).
- The Bible calls for believers to be peacemakers, actively working to resolve conflicts and promote harmony (Matthew 5:9).

## Prayers

## Holy Indifference-Inordinate Attachments

Lord, I don't fix my desire on health or sickness, wealth or poverty, success or failure, a long life or a short one. I understand that everything has the potential of calling out of me a more loving response to my eternal life with You. Let my only desire, my single choice be this: to want and choose what better leads to Your kingdom taking root in me. (Principle and Foundation, SE 23)

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Lord, please help me to clarify and purify my intentions. I have so many contradictory desires. I get preoccupied with things that don't really matter or last. But I know that if I give you my heart, whatever I do will follow my new heart. So, in all that I am today, all that I try to do, all my encounters, reflections, even the frustrations and failings and especially in this time of prayer, in all of this I place my life in your hands. Lord, I am yours. Make of me what you will. Amen.

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I abandon myself into your hands. Do with me what you will. Whatever you may do, I thank you. I am ready for all. I accept all. Let only your will be done in me and in all your creatures. I wish no more than this, O Lord.



# the EXAMEN

The *Examen* is a method of reviewing your day in the presence of God. It's actually an attitude more than a method, a time set aside for thankful reflection on where God is in your everyday life. It has five steps, which most people take more or less in order, and it usually takes 15 to 20 minutes per day. Here it is in a nutshell:

- 1** Ask God for light.  
*I want to look at my day with God's eyes, not merely my own.*
- 2** Give thanks.  
*The day I have just lived is a gift from God. Be grateful for it.*
- 3** Review the day.  
*I carefully look back on the day just completed, being guided by the Holy Spirit.*
- 4** Face your shortcomings.  
*I face up to what is wrong—in my life and in me.*
- 5** Look toward the day to come.  
*I ask where I need God in the day to come.*

Version of the Examen from *A Simple, Life-Changing Prayer* by Jim Marney © Loyola Press