

**DATE: November 13, 2011**

**TITLE: "SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP"**

**TEXT: Acts 20:24-31**

**SERIES: "MADE FOR MORE" No. 8 (The Lifestyle of the Transformed)**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

I have said many good-byes in my life.

Good-byes to friends I had gone to school with, people I have worked with, neighbors I had lived nearby, people and churches I have worshiped with.

The Elders of the church in Ephesus had gathered so the Apostle Paul could say good-bye.

The Apostle Paul had been shepherding the church in Ephesus for three years. It was a meaningful good-bye with tears and hugs.

It was a significant milestone and moment of passage as the baton of spiritual leadership is being passed

This passage speaks about spiritual leadership.

Though he is speaking to the elders of Ephesus, it is a passage that speaks to all of us, for in one sense, we are called to be spiritual leaders.

**ILLUSTRATION: Chuck Swindoll said, \*\*\*"Anyone who influences others is a leader."**

A spiritual leader is one who influences others for Christ.

A spiritual leader is one who makes a transition from a follower of the crowd to leading for Christ.

It is a transition from a sheep to a shepherd, from inaction to influence.

It is a transformation to spiritual leadership through the Spirit of God abiding within.

### **I. (vs.24-27) SPIRITUAL LEADERS TAKE RESPONSIBILITY TO COMPLETE THEIR GOD-GIVEN TASK**

1. Paul had completed his ministry in Ephesus.
2. In moving on, his chief concern was that he should finish the race God had given him regardless of the cost or the consequences.
3. He was committed to finishing the race before him and he had completed his God-given assignment.

**"However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me-the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace." (Acts 20:24)**

4. His life was expendable for the purpose of Christ.

**"Life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus" (v.24 TLB)**

5. Paul was sacrificial so he might finish the race and complete the tasks.
6. He completely surrendered himself to the service of Christ.

**"But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ." (Philippians 3:7)**

7. Paul was committed to finishing well.

8. He was willing to sacrifice so he might complete the task.

**ILLUSTRATION: (\*Picture)** In 1983, Australia hosted its ultra marathon, a 573.7 mile foot race from Sydney to Melbourne. This is a race that takes days to run, and professionals from all over the world came to participate. Shortly before the race began, a 61-year-old farmer named Cliff Young, wearing overalls and goulashes over his boots, walked up to the registration table and requested a number to enter the race. The people at the registration table thought it was a joke—that somebody was setting them up—so they laughed. But Cliff Young said, "No, I'd really like to run." So they gave him a number and pinned it on his old overalls.

Cliff Young walked over to the start of the race. All the other professional runners, who were decked out in all their running regalia, looked at him like he was crazy. The crowd snickered. They laughed even more when the gun went off and the race began, because all those professional runners had sculpted bodies and beautiful strides, but not Cliff Young. He didn't even run like a runner. Cliff Young ran with an awkward, goofy-looking shuffle. All through the crowd people were laughing, and finally, someone called out, "Get that old fool off the track!"

Five days, 14 hours, and four minutes later, at 1:25 in the morning, Cliff Young shuffled across the finish line of the 573.7 mile ultra marathon. He had won the race. And he didn't win by a matter of minutes or even an hour or two. The second place runner was nine hours and 56 minutes behind him. Cliff Young had set a new world record for the ultra marathon. The press mobbed him, wondering what kind of special running shoes he must have had, and they rummaged through his backpack wondering what he'd survived on—he'd lived primarily on pumpkin seeds and water—and then they discovered the secret to his success: Cliff Young had shuffled his way to victory without ever sleeping. The other runners would run for 18 hours straight, and then stop and sleep for three or four hours. He endured running five days, 14 hours, and four minutes at the age of 61. He had a high endurance and a sacrificial commitment to finish.

9. Paul was a man on a mission who sacrificed so he could complete the task God gave him.

10. Studies have shown that the most fulfilled and satisfied people are people who have a sense of mission in their lives.

11. Paul lived for a purpose higher than himself.

12. His God-assigned task was to testify to the gospel of God's grace.

**"I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus." (Acts 20:21)**

13. Paul was a proclaimed voice of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

14. He had gone about preaching the kingdom of God.

15. He had been a faithful proclaimer of the gospel so that he was not to blame.

**“Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men.” (Acts 20:26)**

16. He faithfully fulfilled his particular share in the task.

17. Paul proclaimed the gospel of grace that was provided by the God of all grace.

18. The gospel is possible through grace.

**“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – ” (Ephesians 2:8)**

19. Paul had been courageous and complete in telling the whole truth of the gospel.

**“You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.” (Acts 20:20)**

20. Paul had publically and privately proclaimed the gospel.

21. He wanted to help them, not just please them with the truth.

**“For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God.” (Acts 20:27)**

22. Paul had not held back or hesitated to proclaim the whole of God’s plan of salvation.

**ILLUSTRATION: About 10 years ago, *USA Today* (8-28-01) reported a story about a Kansas City pharmacist who was charged with diluting cancer treatment drugs, Gemzar and Taxol, in order to make a larger profit. There were some 20 felony counts against the pharmacist, Robert Courtney. He admitted to diluting the drugs during a period of time spanning from November 2000 to March 2001. This man held life-saving power in his hands and for the sake of personal gain diluted it to the point where it could not help people.**

23. Paul did not dilute or water down or hold back God's life-saving truth.

24. He told the whole truth like it really is.

25. He had not kept back all the counsel or will of God

26. The whole will of God was the measure of what was truly profitable.

27. Paul had heard the call of God upon his life and responded.

28. Paul was available as an instrument of God’s working.

29. Like the prophet Isaiah, Paul had said, “God, here I am. Send me.”

30. Paul wanted to complete the task God had given to him.

31. As Paul completed his letter to the Colossians, he gave a word of admonishment and instruction to Archippus, an office-bearer in the church that would serve us all to heed and listen to.

**“Tell Archippus: ‘See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord.’” (Colossians 4:17)**

32. See the work God has given you to do through to completion.

33. The words of Jesus, “Well done, my good and faithful servant” speak of finishing the task God has given each of us.

**ILLUSTRATION: Former professor of leadership at Fuller Theological Seminary, Robert Clinton said, \*\*“I believe 70% of leaders do not finish well.” (Robert Clinton – Author & Professor of Leadership)**

34. Paul was committed to completing well the race God had given him.  
**“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” (II Timothy 4:7)**
35. Paul describes the task of testifying to the gospel as fighting the good fight.  
36. He was running the grandest run of them all, the ministry of the gospel.  
37. This is what Paul’s life is all about.  
38. Paul was aware there had been a starting point and there was also an ending point.  
39. In the race he had, he kept the faith and had been loyal to the trust and call he had been given.  
40. Paul wanted to complete the mission he had been given.

**ILLUSTRATION: In a release this year, Dennis Rainey tells of an eight-year-old boy growing up in Hawaii, named Brian Clay. Brian dreamed of winning one of the most prized gold medals in the Olympic game—the decathlon. He accomplished that goal in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.**

**In the decathlon, athletes earn points for their marks in ten events over two days. With a commanding lead going into the last event, the 1,500-meter run, Clay could have just coasted to the finish line and still earned the gold medal. But when Clay was asked when he knew he had the decathlon wrapped up, he surprised me with his reply: “In the last race, when I was about 10 feet away from the finish line—that’s when I knew I’d won. I’d worked, trained, and competed for eight years to be able to ... have the gold [medal] hanging around my neck. And if there was anything those eight years of competition had taught me, it was that in competing against the best in the world in ten grueling events, anything can go wrong before you cross the finish line.” (Dennis Rainey, Family Life, 2011), p. 180**

41. We must get across the finish line, for the race is not over until you cross the finish line.  
42. I don’t know how close I am to the finish line or how close you are finish line, but the call to spiritual leadership is a call to complete the race well.  
43. It has been said, “It is not over until it over.”  
44. You still have a work to do, people still need you, and you can still have an impact.  
45. You have a God-given task to complete.

## **II. (v.28) SPIRITUAL LEADERS TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR OWN SPIRITUAL LIFE**

**“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers.” (Acts 20:28)**

1. The opening admonition is strong.
2. Spiritual leaders must keep watch and first take care of their own spiritual lives.
3. The admonition is to give first attention to your own piety, opinions, and mode of life.

4. Watch over your own attitude and actions paying attention to their own spiritual condition.
5. Don't be distracted by others or others things and don't neglect your own spiritual life.

**ILLUSTRATION: When riding an airplane, safety instructions are always given, including instruction on putting on an air mask in the case of the need of oxygen. The instruction is first to put on your own and then assist others that may need assistance, like children.**

6. To shepherd others, you must shepherd your own soul and keep watch over your own heart.

**"Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life."**

**(Proverbs 4:23)**

7. Be honest with yourself before God.

**"Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you-unless, of course, you fail the test?" (II Corinthians 13:5)**

8. Watch over your doctrine.

9. Watch over your relationships and activities.

10. Paul warns that they take heed of their own spiritual condition.

11. This is why we ask people in leadership to be in worship themselves.

**ILLUSTRATION: Sir Alec Paterson was a British penologist who died in 1947 who, as Commissioner of Prisons, introduced many significant reforms. He prayed, \*\*\*"O God, help us to be masters of ourselves that we may be servants of others. (Sir Alec Paterson)**

12. Effective Spiritual leadership flows from a life, not just from knowledge.

**ILLUSTRATION: \*\*Evangelist Leighton Ford said, "Leadership is not something one does, but something one is." (Leighton Ford)**

13. I often share in the Welcome Class that the first item in my three part philosophy of ministry for my own life is my own relationship with God.

14. This is why I believe every Christian needs to have their own Spiritual Growth Plan they can use to watch over their spiritual lives.

15. We challenge people at the beginning of the year to focus on their own spiritual journey and to have a spiritual growth plan.

**ILLUSTRATION: \*\*\*"To lead like Christ, spend time with Christ. There is no other way to Christ-like leadership." (Author David Vaughn)**

16. Your first responsibility is the watchful care over your own spiritual life.

17. You never know who is following you.

**ILLUSTRATION: \*\*Can you find picture of the K-Mart by Spring Hill Cemetery in Tennessee.) \*(John draw a cartoon of one car pulling into a K-Mart parking lot with several cars behind him). In one of his books, General Superintendent, Stan Toler tells a story told by Robb Robinson who was a Tennessee state senator and funeral director. He tells of a local minister after officiating at a funeral, took the customary lead car position in the procession to the cemetery. It was during the Christmas season and the pastor became preoccupied with thought of gifts he needed to purchase after the graveside services. When he approached**

**the Spring Hill Cemetery, he looked left and saw the K-Mart store conveniently located across the street. Obviously lost in deep thought, he turned left into the K-Mart parking lot instead of the required right turn into the cemetery. As he drove through the parking lot looking for a parking space, he happened to look in his rear-view mirror and saw a string of cars following, all with their lights on!”**

18. We must be careful where we go, for people are following us.
19. People in any type of spiritual leadership must take responsibility for their own lives so they lead people in the right direction.
20. Dads must give attention to their own spiritual life.
21. Moms, give attention to your spiritual life.
22. Teachers, give attention to your spiritual life.
23. Christians, your attitudes and actions influence others, so give attention to your spiritual life.
24. Spiritual leaders must make their own spiritual lives a priority.

### **III. (v.28) SPIRITUAL LEADERS TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PEOPLE IN YOUR CIRCLE OF INFLUENCE**

1. He is speaking to the leaders in the church about taking responsibility for the people in the church.
2. Church is “flock,” a familiar Old Testament metaphor for God’s people.
3. The term of sheep, flock and shepherd are familiar in scripture.
4. In scripture, we are God’s sheep.  
**“Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his, we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.” (Psalms 100:3)**
5. God is the Shepherd.  
**“He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.” (Isaiah 40:11)**
6. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm is a beautiful portrayal of the Lord as our Shepherd.
7. In the gospel of John, Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd.
8. Jesus called Peter to go and feed His sheep.
9. We are called to follow Jesus, but in following Jesus, we are called to influence and lead others for Christ.
10. The journey from sheep to shepherd is one each Christian is called to regardless of their position in life or gifts or graces.
11. Everyone has someone to shepherd and influence for the sake of Christ.
12. We are not all called to pastor a church, but we are all called to shepherd and minister to the people in our circles of influence.
13. As you follow Jesus, you hear the call to “Go into the world and make disciples.”
14. As you follow Jesus, you hear the call to be salt and light.
15. As you follow Christ, you hear the call to move from just being a sheep to being a shepherd.
16. We are made for more than to just follow the crowd; we are made to be spiritual leaders.

17. We are called to lead family, friends, and others to Christ.
18. Shepherd others with the love, grace and goodness God shepherds you.
19. The church, community, and world are in need of spiritual leadership.
20. It takes more than pastors to provide spiritual leadership.
21. The transformed lifestyle takes the responsibility seriously to provide spiritual leadership to others.
22. The “flock” refers to people that need to be helped.
23. Identify the flock God has put in your circle of influence through sensitivity to the spirit of God.
24. Who do you know in your circle of influence that you can invest in spiritually now?
25. Take heed – look well to the welfare of others, being mindful of their condition.
26. Be vitally interested in the spiritual welfare of others.

**ILLUSTRATION: Ten-year-old Chiara Rufus had picked up the milk and bread her mother sent her for. As she left the store, a stranger (who had spoken to her in the store) was waiting outside in his car. Chiara's stomach turned as he leaned out the window and asked, "Want a ride?" Chiara refused and hurried toward home. But then the stranger pulled up beside her and yelled, "Get in." With her thoughts blurred, Chiara climbed into the car.**

**At just that moment, Monique Williams, 34, was driving home. As she saw the young girl approach the car, she sensed that something was not right. A mother of three daughters herself, Williams asked the man if he knew the little girl. He said, “Yes,” but when she asked Chiara, "Do you know him?" Chiara, trembling, said, "No." Williams exploded: "You get out of the car! Get out now!" As Chiara jumped out, Williams moved her vehicle in front of the stranger's car. She began to yell: "You can't take a little girl!" Moments later, the police arrived. The stranger was arrested, and police discovered he was dangerous. Police chief Gary Miguel said of Williams, "She saw something wrong and refused to look away." Ever since her own childhood, Williams had made it her business to watch out for others. Perhaps that's why Williams has two plaques in her living room. One reads, "Civilian Commendation." The other: "To my guardian angel Monique Williams. I love you. Chiara Rufus." (Van Morris, Mount Washington, California; source: Lynn Rosellini, "Get Out of That Car," Readers Digest (December 2005))**

27. The principle of taking responsibility for the people in our circle of influence speaks to all of us.
28. We are called to be influential in people’s lives.
29. We are called to influence others for Christ.
- “In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)**
30. The Holy Spirit had made them overseers over the flock placed in their care.
31. Each of us are responsible to respond to the leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

32. Paul was passing the spiritual care of the church on to others.

33. They were to watch over the spiritual condition of the church.

34. Who is God placing in your life to watch over and care for spiritually?

**“Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.” (Acts 20:28)**

35. The church is precious to God.

**Paul wrote to the church of Ephesus, “Husbands, love your wives. Just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.” (Ephesians 5:25-27)**

36. Christ loved the church.

37. This is evident by what he did for the church.

**“He bought it with his own blood.”**

38. God made the church His own, redeeming it with His own blood.

39. This verse is one of the clearest assertions in the New Testament of the doctrine of the atonement.

40. The Pauline doctrine of redemption through the death of Christ is clearly intended.

41. The Church belongs to God, for He Himself bought it.

**“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.” (I Peter 1:18-19)**

42. Spiritual leadership is serious because the church is so precious to the Lord.

**ILLUSTRATION:** In 2004, the University of Helsinki announced that they had received a legacy gift of 910,000 euros—\$1,181,342.07 in U.S. dollars—from a Tuulikki Ilvonen, a retired teacher. She stipulated that the money be used to develop treatments for panic disorder. The rector of the university said that “the donator had faith in the methods of academia and scientific research to help solve difficult problems.”

43. Paul had faith in the power of Christ to transform the world.

**“Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him!” (Romans 5:9)**

44. He believed in the power of the blood of Jesus to transform lives.

**“How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!” (Hebrews 9:14)**

45. There is power in the blood!

**“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.” (I John 1:7)**

46. The church is precious and God calls His people to shepherd the church.

47. Paul was aware that every man with whom he dealt was a person “for whom Christ died” and he took it seriously.

48. Take spiritual responsibility for the people in your circle of influence.

**ILLUSTRATION** Author Randal Earl Denny tells this, “At John Hopkins University, a sociology class studied one of the worst slums in Baltimore. Cards were tabulated on the people in that section. Among the cards, 200 were marked, “Headed for jail.” Each card had a brief sketch of background, attitudes toward life, and the prospects that indicated the person was probably headed for jail. The report was filed in the university’s archives.

Twenty-five years later, another sociology class found this survey of 200 boys and girls, black and white, “headed for jail.” As a project, the class checked every card and investigated what had happened. The first card led them to a physician in Baltimore. The student investigators asked him, “You were listed as incorrigible, ‘headed for jail.’ What happened?” The doctor confessed, “I was the worst kid in the neighborhood, but Aunt Hannah changed all that.”

“Who is Aunt Hannah?” She was a teacher in the slums. One day she invited him for Sunday dinner. Aunt Hannah told him, “Joe, I’ve been studying you. I’ve discovered that with your hands, you have the capacity to be a terrific surgeon. I forsee the time when you’ll be one of the great men of medicine in Baltimore. I’m going to follow you, Joe, all the way.” The doctor remarked, “I walked out of Aunt Hannah’s house, feeling I couldn’t let her down. I remember saying to myself, ‘She sees me as a great surgeon. What do you know?’ So I missed jail because of Aunt Hannah.” The sociology students went to the manager of a huge supermarket. They asked, “You’re on the list. How come you didn’t make it to jail?” He replied, “I use to steal stuff for a gang out of the grocery store on this very location. I finally got caught, but providentially I talked to Aunt Hannah. She pointed out that when we do something wrong, we must pay for it some way. Was I willing to pay back all I had stolen? I was – and Aunt Hannah worked it out with the grocer and the police. “I worked in the grocery store and paid back all the money. I liked working there. One day, Aunt Hannah said to me, ‘You’re going to run one of the biggest grocery stores in Baltimore. What do you think?’ She believed in me and helped me believe in myself. Finally, I bought the store and improved it and enlarged it. This very site is where I stole food and was headed for jail. But Aunt Hannah changed all that. She saw something in me!” The sociology class discovered only 2 out of 200 “headed for jail” ever got there. Why? Aunt Hannah! She saw something special in each of them. She impressed them with the idea that they were called to be children of God, designed to stand tall and walk straight, to master their circumstances. By God’s help, she gave them hope. She took responsibility for people in the circle of her influence.

49. Take responsibility for people in your circle of influence.

50. Be a mentor and invest in others.

#### IV. (vs.29-31) SPIRITUAL LEADERS TAKE RESPONSIBILITY TO BE ON GUARD

1. Paul was aware of the spiritual dangers the church faces.

2. The church is a marked target.

3. We have an enemy that is out to destroy.

**“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” (1 Peter 5:8)**

4. Paul was aware that there were spiritual dangers from the outside that would try to come in to the church and destroy it.

**“I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock.” (Acts 20:29)**

5. The thought was of heretical teachers, especially of hard-line Jewish Christians, coming in after Paul had gone and leading the people astray.

6. This had happened in Galatia and Corinth, with the preaching of another gospel.

7. Paul wrote to the Galatians, **“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel - ”(Galatians 1:6)**

8. Paul describes these enemies to the church or flock of God as savage wolves.

9. Jesus used the terminology of wolves attacking the sheep.

**“The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it.” (John 10:12)**

10. Wolves are extremely intelligent hunters.

11. Wolves can literally run all night long and can wear down their resistant prey.

**ILLUSTRATION: The wolf’s bad reputation is not without foundation. Former U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt once called the wolf, the "beast of waste and desolation". This statement was a result of observing the seemingly senseless slaughter of sheep by wolves.**

12. The phrase “A wolf in sheep’s clothing” describes a person who acts friendly but has evil intentions.

**ILLUSTRATION: \*\*\*PROP: A wolf I can dress up like Little Red Riding Hood. (\*Picture) The Fable of Little Red Riding Hood is the story of a wolf who disguises himself and threaten to eat a little girl.**

**ILLUSTRATION: (\*Picture) The story of The Three Little Pigs is the story of a wolf who is out to destroy the homes and the three little pigs.**

13. Paul makes the goal of the wolves very clear.

14. There were spiritual dangers from within and also dangers from without. (v.30)

15. Teachers would arise from among the Ephesians themselves to seduce the congregation and draw away disciples after them.

16. This is an implied contrast with the call of the disciple to follow Christ and lead others to Christ.

17. With that, Paul warns them to be on their guard!

18. Spiritual leaders, you must never let your guard down and always be watchful and on the alert.

19. The call to watchfulness in scripture is loud and clear.

**“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong.” (I Corinthians 16:13)**

**“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” (Colossians 4:2)**

20. Paul gives us his own life as an example.

21. For three years, he had taught and warned them night and day with tears.

22. He had not ceased to warn—literally, “putting in mind,” and so “Admonishing, exhorting”

**ILLUSTRATION: I heard a story of a church that had two different preachers. Someone once asked about the difference between the two preachers in their style of preaching. The person asked responded, “They both preached the truth, both taught of sin and its consequences. But one preacher seemed almost glad when he preached of sin and its consequences and the other preached it in a way that you knew it was breaking his heart.”**

23. Warned with tears of love.

24. Paul was tough-skinned but tender-hearted.

25. Paul had given of himself.

26. Paul knew, both through his own ministry and through hearing from Jesus, that it is more blessed to give than to receive (v.35)

**ILLUSTRATION: Earnest Shackleton led a daring expedition in 1914 to reach Antarctica. A year earlier, a lesser-known Canadian-led expedition headed in the other direction to explore the North Pole. Both ships, the Karluk in the north and the Endurance in the south, found themselves trapped by solid ice packs. Each crew was faced with a fight for survival. But the outcomes of the two expeditions couldn't have been more different.**

**In the north, the crew members from the Karluk, led by Vilhjalmur Stefansson, degenerated into a band of selfish, mean-spirited, cut-throat individualists, ending in the death of all 11 crew members. In the south, Shackleton's crew faced the same problems—cold, food shortages, stress, and anxiety—but his crew responded with teamwork, self-sacrifice, and astonishing good cheer.**

**In the end, each leader stayed true to his core leadership values. Stefansson valued success above caring for people. He consistently communicated his ultimate objective: getting to the North Pole. In Stefansson's words, this meant that “even the lives of the [crew] are secondary to the accomplishment of the work!” To the very end, Stefansson denied that his drive for success led to a tragedy—for himself and his crew.**

In sharp contrast, Shackleton's leadership focused on the value and dignity of his teammates. At one of the lowest points of his trip, Shackleton wrote, "The task was now to secure the safety of the party." The well-being of his team drove him to put others first. Shackleton even gave away his mittens and boots and volunteered for the longest night watches. By valuing each person, Shackleton forged a team that was willing to share their rations with each other, even on the brink of starvation. Through his example of sacrificial leadership, Shackleton was able to accomplish his ultimate objective: saving the lives of his crew members. (Dennis N. T. Perkins, AMACOM, 2000), pp. xiii-xiv)

27. Be on guard so you can be the spiritual leaders God has called you to be.

28. You were made for more than to be a follower of the crowd; you were called to lead others spiritually.

29. Spiritual leadership is moving people to God's plan for their lives.

30. To be more than just a sheep but to be a shepherd.

**CONCLUSION:** Will you be the spiritual leader God is calling you to be?

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