

# WALKING WITH JESUS 'THE LEADERSHIP TRACK'

## 1 TIMOTHY 4

1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. 2 Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. 3 They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. 4 For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5 because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

6 If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. 7 Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. 8 For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. 9 This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. 10 That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe.



**Leaders do not make up their own set of rules**



**Leaders train for godliness**

**"...the word *savior* was in regular use in Paul's world as a title of honor for Caesar, the Roman emperor. In using it here for God (and in 2 Timothy 1:10 for Jesus), Paul is claiming that this God and this Jesus are the true 'savior' in the sense that through them the whole world will be rescued from decay and injustice. There is a sense in which the entire world is better off as a result of the saving work of God through Jesus. But since humans retain the right and dignity to refuse God's ultimate offer, it is only believers who appropriate this salvation fully." - N.T. Wright**

11 Command and teach these things. 12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. 13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. 14 Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.



**Leaders teach godliness**

15 Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. 16 Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

**Leaders exercise personal devotion for public ministry**

“Training in godliness is emphatically not what people today expect or want to hear. We expect and want to be told that ‘spirituality’ is simply the sense I have of being in God’s presence, being surrounded by his love, sensing a transcendent dimension in the affairs of everyday life. It comes as a shock to be told that it’s something you have to work at—and something moreover that will take the same kind of hard work as going into training for athletics.” - N.T. Wright

## **MATTHEW 13**

1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. 2 Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. 3 Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. 9 Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

... 18 “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: 19 When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. 20 The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. 21 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. 22 The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. 23 But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

### **A LEADER’S PLAN FOR PREPARING GOOD SOIL**

Read Scripture according to a daily plan

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Pray for understanding as you read

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Memorize and recite Scripture that feeds your faith

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Pray that your application of what you read is obedient and honoring to God, as well as being rendered in love to others

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Take time for purposeful fellowship, where the conversational exchange is both encouraging and challenging to you (Grow at an “L+1” pace)

“The parable is an invitation to consider what sort of ground we are providing for the seed—can it grow and flourish?... Existing doubt may be overcome, and future doubt made less likely, by allowing the seed of the gospel to grow vigorously in the ground of your life (Hosea 10:12).” - Alister McGrath