

Book Review
by Sharon G. Johnson

**Jesus on Leadership:
Discovering the Secrets of
Servant Leadership from the
Life of Christ**

Dr. C. Gene Wilkes
Tyndale House Publishers
(Wheaton, IL), 1998
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Dr. Wilkes has served as pastor of Legacy Baptist Church in Plano, Texas since 1987. This book focuses our attention on seven principles of servant leadership:

- Humble Your Heart
- First be a Follower
- Find Greatness in Service
- Take Risks
- Take Up the Towel
- Share Responsibility and Authority
- Build a Team

Each principle is richly illustrated from the life of Jesus, drawing principally from the Bible, but also citing other authors where appropriate. Each principle ends with a set of provocative questions for “Study and Reflection.” For example, the principle of humility leads the author to ask the questions,

When you think of the concept of humility, what pictures first

come to your mind? What are your concerns about being known as a humble person?

Based on your understanding of this chapter, what role does pride play in the life of a servant leader?

Share examples from your life when you experienced quiet waiting, expectant waiting, and/or frustrated waiting. What did you learn from those times?

Throughout the book, the author summarizes his points in short, action-oriented one-sentence statements. For example, when discussing the principle of “Taking Risks,” we read such statements as,

Christ’s servants tap into God’s power. Otherwise, how could they see the future and have the courage to pioneer their way into it?

When we trust that God is in control of our life, we can take big risks.

God didn’t go looking for leaders. God looked for obedient people, whom He then formed into leaders.

This book is most directly applied to church leadership, but I believe it has a far broader market than that. Its principles and perspectives offer insight for Christian leaders in any kind of organization.