



## Sermon Notes from 3 November

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### Celebrating 35 years of God's Grace and Faithfulness!

(*Philippians 2:1-11*) by Rev Guna Raman

It is crucial to have the right understanding of what it truly means to serve God. Jesus, being the only person with a perfect reputation, instead of capitalizing on His reputation for His own gain, chose to become a man of no reputation (Php 2:7) in His ministry and service towards God. We look through the lens of the Gospel at

#### Five Leadership Lessons:

##### **1) God anoints before He appoints**

This model is completely opposite from the world's. Christian leadership is the most unique form of leadership in the world. This is one place where we cannot succeed if God is not in the picture. With God's anointing comes His power and presence, and this makes anointing far more important than appointment. The unique presence of God is present with those whom He anoints and calls to leadership. Their gifts and talents are secondary; God's calling and anointing is primary!

##### **2) The hardest thing for a leader to do is to choose to decrease**

The Christian leader must continually resist the desire for the fame and fortune that comes with leadership. *"The way of the Christian leader is not the way of upward mobility in which our world has invested so much but the way of downward mobility ending on the cross..."* – Henry Nouwen. Jesus went onto the cross with no reputation and chose to decrease—so that we, wretched and worthless sinners, may be clothed with dignity and worth.

##### **3) Growing people is more important than getting results**

The problem with a result-oriented style of leadership is that it sees people as a means to an end. It values the product over the process and sees relationships and community as assets only if they contribute to the bottom-line. Let the Gospel transform and lead us to find courage to stare down at our weaknesses and uncover the messiness in our lives and bring us to repentance (Jer 30:12-14, 17)!

##### **4) Leadership is a Grace**

When God uses someone to lead effectively, it is nothing short of His grace. When we place the complex and demanding role of a leader next to his own sinfulness and incompetence, we are thrown wholly on the grace of God and His faithfulness. Let the grace of God lead us in our ministry and leadership!

##### **5) The best miracles are the silent ones**

More often than not, God works through silent miracles. The miracle of salvation, moving from darkness into light, is a very quiet miracle. The miracle of sanctification is brought about through the Holy Spirit; the gospel works in our hearts and over time, silently, we become more Christ-like. Whether we realise it or not, God is working a silent miracle through the mundane and ordinary of our lives. Stay faithful and trust that God is working a silent miracle through our ministry and leadership, all for His glory!