

Leadership and Power

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1. Introduction

2. Jesus and Power – Philippians 2.6-11

Christ Jesus, ⁶ who,
though he was in the form of God,
did not count equality with God a
thing to be **grasped after, clung to,**

used to his advantage
⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in the likeness
of a human.

⁸ And being found in
human form he
humbled himself
and became obedient
unto death,
even death on a
cross.

to the glory of God the
Father.

¹¹ and every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every
knee should bow, in heaven and
on earth and under the earth,

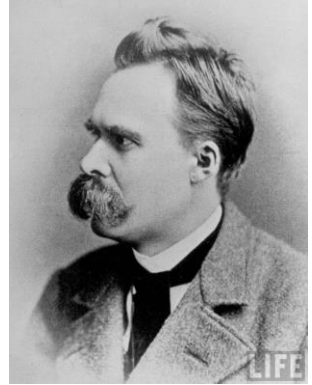
and bestowed on him the name
which is above every name,

⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him

3. Nietzsche and the “Will to Power”

What is good? Everything that heightens the feeling of power in man, the will to power, power itself.
What is bad? Everything that is born of weakness.
What is happiness? The feeling that power is growing, that resistance is overcome.
Not contentedness but more power; not peace but war; not virtue but fitness. (Renaissance virtue, virtù, virtue that is moraline-free).
The weak and the failures shall perish: first principle of our love of man. And they shall be given every possible assistance.
What is more harmful than any vice? Active pity for all the failures and all the weak: Christianity.

(From *The Anti-Christ*, 1.2)



Friedrich Nietzsche
1844-1900

4. The Centurion and Power – Luke 7.2-10

² A centurion there had a slave whom he valued highly, and who was ill and close to death. ³ When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his slave.

⁴ When they came to Jesus, they appealed to him earnestly, saying, “He is worthy of having you do this for him, ⁵ for he loves our people, and it is he who built our synagogue for us.”

⁶ And Jesus went with them, but when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him,

“Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; ⁷ therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed. ⁸ For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, ‘Go’, and he goes, and to another, ‘Come’, and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this’, and the slave does it.”

⁹ When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, he said,

“I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.”

¹⁰ When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.



5. Lessons for Leadership

All power belongs ultimately to God.
(Power is *never* our possession.)

All forms of leadership necessarily requires exercising power.

To exercise power well in leadership is to submit all power in obedience to God.

6. Table Discussion

As a leader, with what do I struggle *most* in exercising power?

In my own “will to power,” do I find myself *clinging, grasping after, or using power to my own advantage?*

How do I see the “will to power” manifest most frequently in my work environment?

How difficult do I think it is in my work environment to submit my power in obedience to God?