

## LEADING AND FOLLOWING

By Keith Greer

While preparing for some lessons, I came across a phrase that someone coined: **“A leader cannot lead effectively unless he is willing to go where he is leading others.”**

Jesus Christ is a great example of this truth. Let’s briefly examine His leadership record.

**Loving your enemies.** “But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.” {Matthew 5:44} As He hung on the cross, Jesus again taught this lesson: “Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.’ And they divided His garments and cast lots.” {Luke 23:34}

**Treating others as you want to be treated.** “Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.” {Matthew 7:12} How did Jesus react when others sought to twist and pervert His words? On one occasion, as the Herodians attempted to trip Him in His words, they questioned Him about paying taxes. He replied, “‘Show Me the tax money.’ So they brought Him a denarius. And He said to them, ‘Whose image and inscription is this?’ They said to Him, ‘Caesar’s.’ And He said to them, ‘Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’” {Matthew 22:19-21}

We could look at other examples, but I think you see the point. Jesus was not about to ask His disciples to do something He, Himself, would not do. Christ gave them instructions that He knew would lead them in the right paths and then lived it before their eyes to confirm it was right.

Brethren, are we as consistent as the Lord was? How can we ask others to commit to the Lord if we’re not fully committed? How can we expect others to repent and forgive if we’re unwilling to repent and forgive them? How can we teach others to put God first in their lives if He is not first in our lives? Dear readers, if we want others to follow the Lord’s lead, we, ourselves, must also be following Him! \*\*\*