

## The Most Powerful Leadership on Planet Earth:

What was it about Jesus that enabled Him to make such a powerful impact? Was it His persona? Did Jesus attempt to impress people with His hip clothing and clever speech? I don't think so. Jesus could have leveraged who He was as God, but the Bible teaches us that He deliberately chose to empty Himself (Philippians 2:5-8) of His reigning authority and power as the Son of God. Jesus chose rather to influence people out of His intimate dependence upon the Father. No one on earth had or has today a higher position than Jesus Christ the Son of God, but He chose to become a man and live among us as a servant. Even though He had the resources of heaven available to Him, He surrendered them to the Father as He walked humbly on this planet. This is an amazing thought.

## The Great Passion of Jesus:

Brennan Manning in his wonderful book, *Abba's Child*, mentions that the great passion of Jesus was not lost people, the Kingdom of God, truth, His disciples or other important but secondary concerns. Manning states that the one great passion of Jesus was the Father and His relationship with Him. Read John 8:28-29. Do you think Manning is right? Jesus' connection with the Father was the source of everything. That relationship oozed from His person, from His very being.

I believe that the most powerful leadership on planet earth flows from someone who is taken seriously because they have substance beneath the surface of life. The most influential people don't rely on flashy personality or position or money...they know that only God can change a human heart and they walk intimately with the God who changes them and others.

There's no doubt that Jesus made an impact on many different levels; He taught with unbelievable power—He performed miracles beyond belief—His courage astounded the bravest onlookers—and He rocked the world because of the person He showed Himself to be. He was truly amazing in every way. But write it down and take it to the bank, Jesus' impact was made out of His intimate relationship with the Father and the depth of His character. Jesus was unbelievable! He knew who He was before the Father and was never intimidated by a world that's impressed with externals. Only a man or woman of this heart can speak to the heart of another.

Philippians 2:5-8: "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped. But emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

John 8:28-30: "Jesus therefore said, 'When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on my own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught me. And He who sent me is with me; He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.'" As He spoke these things, many people came to believe in Him.

\*Taken from Dan Webster.