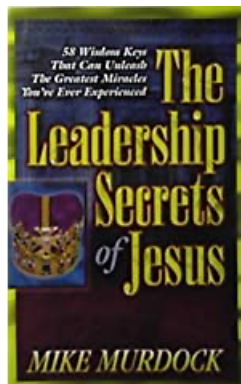


# Faith Aflame: 360 Degrees

## Living as a Leader in Stewardship



### Session Four – Part One



**Introduction:** Books on leadership abound. If people who want to be leaders were to read even a small portion of the leadership books available, there would be no time left to lead. A search on the internet resulted in over 36 million hits for leadership books. Some interesting titles include:

- *The Leadership Secrets of Jesus*
- *The Leadership Secrets of Billy Graham*
- *The Leadership Secrets of Santa Claus*
- *The Leadership Secrets of Attila the Hun*
- *Cubs Fans' Leadership Secrets*

Leadership is definitely a hot topic. Leadership is important. Leadership is vitally important in the area of Christian stewardship. As the 1993 edition of the Congregational Stewardship Workbook states, "The congregation's membership will not rise above the level of commitment of its leaders." Leadership is important!

**Bible Study:** Mark 6:30-44 "Feeding of the Five Thousand"

#### Stewardship Questions:

1. What is leadership?
2. Why is leadership important in stewardship?

**Leaders Lead:** A few quotes...

"With the challenges facing the church, its future depends on the courageous leadership of church leaders." Edward Hammett in *Spiritual Leadership in a Secular Age*. (page 11)

- What are some (list three) of the challenges leaders face in the area of Christian stewardship that will impact the future of the church?

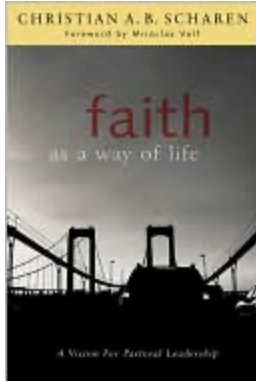
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- What are some courageous things that leaders can/should/must do to meet the challenges listed above?

*Leaders Lead*



“Emil Brunner pointed out that the key to effective church leadership is to recognize that the church is comprised of two elements. The primary element of a church is that it is a spiritual fellowship that requires pastoring, consoling, nurturing, and spiritual growth. But, Brunner also points out that the church is an administrative organization that must be managed, administered, and united toward common and biblical goals.” Bob Whitesel in *Preparing for Change Reaction*. (page 23)

- Which of the two elements identified by Brunner is a stewardship issue?
- Brunner suggests that spiritual leadership and organizational leadership are inextricably connected and that a church flourishes when both are in balance and mutually effective.

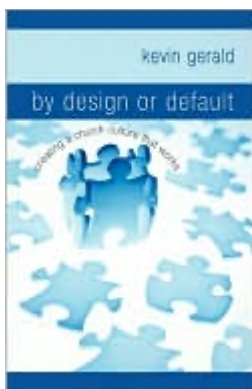
“One of the most pressing needs of pastoral ministry is to develop, sustain, and legitimize reflection on Christian faith not simply as a set of propositions to believe, commandments to obey, or rituals to perform, but as an orienting force that impacts every aspect of daily life.” Christian Scharen in *Faith as a Way of Life*. (page 5)

- When it comes to stewardship, what do you, as a leader, want for the members of your congregation?
- When it comes to stewardship, do the members of your congregation know what you want for them?

“The first fact that every church leader must understand is that every church has a culture either by design or by default...When the designated leadership of the church doesn’t consciously design and create its culture, they are not leaders at all.” Kevin Gerald in *By Design or Default: Creating a Church Culture that Works*. (page 1)

- What is the stewardship culture in your church?
- Is it there by design or by default?
- In a congregation that wants to develop a Biblical stewardship culture, what issues must be addressed prayerfully, intentionally, and consistently?

## *Servant Leader*



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