

# LETTER TO LEADERS

BY

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Dear Friends:

## **NUMBERS**

A few years ago we were visiting an American missionary in England. He was a bit discouraged by an article in a leading American Christian publication which had a lead article on leadership. In the article it said, "If you have no followers, you are not a leader." I immediately replied to my friend, "Then Jesus was not a leader, for He lost many in one day by rebuking them for following for the loaves and fishes. He then turned to the disciples and said, 'Will you also go away?'" (John 6:22-71)

## **GOD BUILDS**

However, we must not forget that David, a great leader in the Old Testament, had not just one sin but two. The one was his adultery with Bathsheba. The other was counting the people. (II Sa 24:10). We tend to overlook the sin of adultery among leaders. We do not even recognize numbering the people to be a sin at all. To number the people opens the door in our thinking to believe that we had something to do with this wonderful church with large numbers. This surely is a thought of pride. The Word of God says, "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it:" (Ps 127:1).

## **BUILDING CHARACTER**

The mark of successful leadership is not numbers, but character of disciples. If we will disciple people unto Jesus, the Lord will bring the numbers. Whenever we seek the numbers, we lower the standard of discipleship to make it easy for people to "join up". We can serve up the "loaves and fishes", healing, miracles, and promises of God. It will draw people to join up. But when it comes time to make a dedication to follow Jesus, do we have the character, do we have the passion for Jesus that will cause us to "take up our cross and follow Him."

## **GREAT LEADERS**

A great leader is one who is willing to follow Jesus when it is not convenient, when it does not stroke their ego. A great leader is one who discipless people to follow Jesus when it is not convenient, when it does not stroke their ego.

## **CONTENTED LEADERS**

We find many great leaders as we travel and minister in churches. Most of them are humble shepherds making disciples in small congregations. They would all like to see more people saved. They would all like to see people become more like Jesus. They are not in the ministry for the purpose of leading a large group of people.

Sincerely  
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