



FAST - faithful, available, submissive and teachable.

Mark 9:35 and Mark 10:44.45

Jesus is very clear about what the heart attitude of His disciples should be - everyone's servant. Jesus sets Himself as an example and asks them to follow.

We see this service clearly reflected in the stories of Jesus. He does not ask anything of the disciples that He does not do Himself. Service and sacrifice are the heartbeat of the Kingdom of God and of His King.

Paul is also a spiritual father who takes many sons with him on his travels and in this way allows them to grow in the passion and vision of the Kingdom. Paul speaks a lot about this service with his disciples.

FAST

In English we have put together a nice word: FAST. This word consists of four words, namely: faithful, available, submissive and teachable.

Being a servant primarily has to do with your heart condition.

Jesus chooses His men after a night of prayer. But before then He has already tested several men.

Test 1 for Servant Leaders: Willing to Follow

Matt 4:18, 19, 1 Tim 1: 3, 2 Tim 1: 3-10

He asks all disciples to follow Him. Not going their own way, just following Him and hanging out with Him. He approached and invited them personally.

In the three years of training, we see that those chosen all have the four attributes of a servant leader. They are willing, except for Judas, not only to follow Jesus, but to adopt His passion and vision and later when He is no longer there to continue by propagating. Some disciples even give their lives for the passion and vision of Jesus.

Test 2 for Servant Leaders: Faithful

John 17: 6,14 2 Tim 4:10

Except for Judas who betrayed Jesus, the disciples were trustworthy. They stayed with Jesus all those years and afterward when Jesus told them to continue sharing the message He had taught them, they did so. Faithfulness is evident throughout the Bible. God is faithful, He will not change.

Amsterdam

A few years ago I promised a mother to meet her teenage daughter at Central Station. I hadn't written this down when I promised the mother I'd be there. She was rightly a little nervous because her daughter was still young. I completely forgot the appointment and became red when the mother called me. Shame quickly crept in. At that time I turned out to be unreliable and then decided that it could not continue like this. Something had to change in me.

Followers look at this trait in people and then decide whether to follow or not.

Test 3 for Servant Leaders: Availability

John 4: 8, 2 Tim 4:12

When Jesus goes to another place, sends the disciples ahead, or instructs them to get bread, they are available and do what Jesus asks of them. Paul also asks his disciple to do something and they are available.





House churches

When I visit a home church, you quickly get to know your future ministering leaders. You discover the real servants in no time. Often without you asking, they are ready to help. They willingly prepare chairs, make tea, pray for people, take care of the visitors, cleaning up the room, etc.

There are also people who only like to do the important, eye-catching things. Or don't want to do anything at all.

Test 4 for Servant Leaders: Teachable

Mark 4: 10-12, 2 Tess 2:15, 2 Tim 2:2

One of the things that strikes me when I study the disciples is that they usually want to know everything when the people are gone. When Jesus tells the parable of the sower, His disciples want to know what is behind the story. They are eager to learn.

Regional leaders

It is always special to me how our leaders always want to know something. Often when we meet there are questions, they want to keep learning.

Choosing your future servant leaders

Jesus, Paul and the apostles all apply a clear selection procedure for people who can advance and carry out their passion and vision. It will be a long personal training, but there is a lot at stake. The proclamation of the gospel to all nations must be entrusted into the hands of the right people. Selection is therefore important to take the message further.

To buy

When I enter a store I see a lot of packaged products. I usually want to buy the product with the most beautiful and attractive packaging. Fortunately, I have a wife who gives good instructions what to buy, because she is not interested in the beautiful packaging, but what is in it.

It is the same with people we want to train to take responsibility. Attitude and character are ultimately determining factors as to whether the message will progress and be followed over the years.

Ultimately, if someone is not trustworthy or does not want to follow, the gospel will also be damaged. The chain of transmission is damaged by such a person and the message will be stopped by such a break at that moment.

Col 4; 14, 2 Tim 4:10 Demas was such an example.

Peter, FAST

Matt 16:18

Jesus asks Peter who do people say He is. Various prophets are mentioned. Peter followed Jesus, listened to Him, learned from Him. Peter knows who Jesus is, namely the Messiah, the Son of the living God.

Jesus says that on this confession of Jesus as the Messiah, the Church will be built throughout the ages.

EXERCISE



Are you a FAST person? Try to be honest with yourself and see in what areas you are good. Which of the four-character words are your strengths?



Which of the four-character words can you work on? Choose one and plan to get started with it for the coming month.