

JESUS, CEO

USING ANCIENT WISDOM FOR VISIONARY LEADERSHIP

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INTRODUCTION

- “One person trained twelve human beings who went on to so influence the world...” (p. XIII)
- “This person worked with a staff that was totally human and not divine...” (p. XIV)
- “His leadership style was intended to be put to use by any of us.” (p. XIV)

SUMMARY

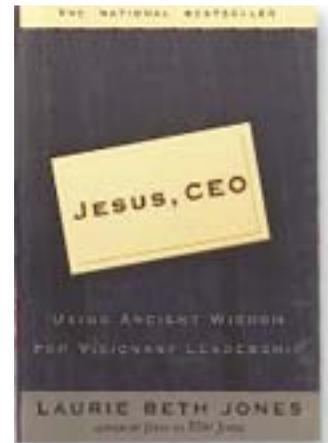
Jesus, CEO by Laurie Beth Jones is a guide book to effective leadership that focuses on **self-mastery, action, and relationships**. Within each section numerous examples of visionary leadership are provided. As the title suggests, each example provided is one that features a situation in which Jesus Christ lead others. The actions of Jesus are used as a tool to educate and motivate just as He had done with his team.

The book caters to those who have a vision for the future. The usefulness is that it provides you with tools that when utilized will have long lasting effects. The focus is placed on striving to be a better person

and expecting more out of your self and modeling that belief.

Laurie Beth Jones was motivated to write this book because so many of the leadership books of the time were catered to men. The author goes on to explain that Jesus utilized an “Omega” management style. This style incorporated the best of the masculine and the feminine leadership styles. The end result is a book that is practical for all regardless of gender.

Jesus, CEO has three main sections when combined goes through over 80 examples of Jesus’ leadership. Each example is followed by reflective questions and/or practical ap-



proaches to use. Three focal points are carefully broken down into several manageable pieces that join together to create an intricately woven formula for successful leadership.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: LAURIE BETH JONES

Jesus, CEO, published in 1995, is Laurie Beth Jones’ first book. She has since followed with 11 other titles. Her personal mission is to recognize, promote, and inspire divine connection in herself and others. Her books have been translated into 14 foreign languages. Her books have regularly been listed on

the *Businessweek* bestseller list and she has been featured many times in several media outlets. Laurie Beth currently oversees a leadership and development training organization, a publishing company, and non-profit organizations. More on Laurie Beth can be found at www.lauriebethjones.com



STRENGTH OF SELF-MASTERY

“Above all else, keep watch over your heart, for herein lie the wellspring of life.” Proverbs 4:23

The first section begins by having the reader reflect upon them self. It identifies that people won't follow unless they believe and know the leader. Yet, how can this be lasting if the leader does not know them self? An effective can recognize their strengths and can complete

the statement “I am...” What you become is predicated on how you view yourself and who you are. It is important to reinforce to our self who we believe we are.

Mission statements are our guiding force. Jesus wanted to teach others about a better way of life. He would not deviate from his mission. It is imperative that you create a mission and it is crucial to stick to it. This includes

when there are doubters.

Others may question you, but you must believe in your self. This challenge takes energy and you must recognize what negative influences draw your energy out. Without energy we cease to move forward. We must avoid energy leaks and take time to replenish our reserves.



“Jesus guarded his energy.” (p. 24)

OTHER IDEAS

A professional is one who accepts the challenge of doing difficult things. The focus should not be winning approval or being liked. Sometimes this means standing alone and sometimes this means being seen as foolish. Many great leaders have looked foolish over the years. They accepted this because they believed it what they were doing .

Effective leaders show gratitude and have a thankful heart.

Celebrate, celebrate, celebrate. Don't wait for only the big events. Celebrate everything you can.

Own it. Through gentleness, certainty, and power, we can receive the gifts presented in our lives and own our situation.

Jesus did not judge others because it was a waste of time and energy. One can not move forward when judging others because judgment halts forward progress. By helping and not judging, we build instead of destroy.

Accept challenges as opportunities to reflect. Each roadblock is placed there to protect us from a potential pitfall.

If you don't believe in your self, why would anyone else?

BE AWARE AND SET THE STANDARD HIGH

Fear is natural. Be aware of your fears and work through them. There is no such thing as the perfect time to do so. If everything was perfect, we wouldn't have fears. If we don't deal with our fears, we don't move beyond where we are. Be aware of the fears that may be preventing you from your goals.

Know your resources. Our greatest resource is one another. Be aware of the gifts and talents that exist within your organization and utilize them.

Are you aware of your destiny? Do you feel that you are called to do what you are doing? How can you lead if this is not what you were

called to do? Let this be your guide.

Know the goal and set the standard high. Do not let short term gain be the main goal. Focus on planting seeds that will continue to provide returns and ensure long term viability.



“He Prized the Seed Rather than the Bouquet.” (p. 70)

STRENGTH OF ACTION

“She deploys her strength from one end of the earth to the other, ordering all things for good.” Wisdom 8:1 *The Jerusalem Bible*

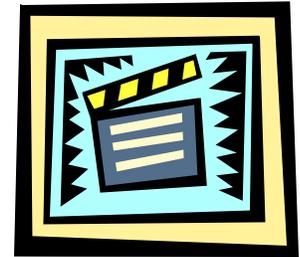
Section two is titled Strength of Action and highlights the need to be active as a leader. More importantly, this section provides tools and ideas on how to set your organization up so that an action plan can be implemented. Firstly, it is important to recognize that

everything is alive and nothing is dead. By adopting this philosophy we open our world to greater possibilities.

Jesus was constantly teaching. He took action and did so every day. His actions are countless. Not only must we be active, we must also embrace creativity and stretch our world view. Of importance is that Jesus’ actions always followed his plan. We don’t always have all the

details worked out, but we need to see the big picture. You need a plan, it needs to be written down, it needs to be clear, and it needs to be workable.

Resistance will likely present itself, but a leader breaks ranks and does not follow the crowd. A leader also needs a team because without it you lead nobody. Know your team because you need them to help carry out your plan.



Ready, set, action!

OTHER IDEAS

Many leaders have felt unqualified, but passion may be the only qualification you need.

Possibilities are endless. Find ways to expand your vision, your influence, and your contribution.

SHOUT IT OUT LOUD! “Jesus flew his banner high and carried it on a day-to-day basis.” (p.112) Be bold and do what needs to be done.

The leader should be the first person people see. Be visible.

Always find a way to meet your goal. Be willing to try new approaches.

Only you can keep you down. Other people don’t ruin plans, accepting defeat ruins plans.

There are many ways to get to a destination. All goals are met one step at a time.

Don’t save affection and love. Give it away every chance you get because we never run out, but opportunities do.

Change how you measure success. “We are slaves to our beliefs.” (p.143)

Be assertive. Jesus said, “Go now, and teach as you’ve been taught, and demonstrate what you have learned.”

“The superior man acts before he speaks, and afterwards speaks according to his action.”
Confucius

ME, ME, ME

You are responsible for much as a leader. This requires you to always be taking action.

- ◆ You need to trouble yourself on behalf of others.
- ◆ You need to make so that others could replace you and carry out

your plan.

- ◆ You need to know when it is time to let it go. The prize sometimes causes us to falter.
- ◆ You need to fly. Rise above and keep things in perspective.
- ◆ You need to be a blessing for others.

- ◆ You need to turn things around. Help others see the good and reset sights on the plan.
- ◆ You are not alone. Someone or something is always guiding you.



Leaders need to be seen and heard.

STRENGTH OF RELATIONSHIPS

“Love the Lord your god with all your heart and soul and mind and strength, and your neighbor as yourself. On this, hang all the law and the prophets.” Matthew 22:37-39

The final section recognizes the significance of those around us. People often say that they are in the relationship business. That is true of many organizations because with out building positive

relationships with employees and those we serve, we are doomed to fail. This chapter shares stories that highlight how Jesus built relationships with all people regardless of their place in the world.

The first step in building a relationship is identify and sharing the vision. People need to understand their role and know why they matter. They also need to know you care. You need to discover

the hidden qualities that each employee possesses.

Time must also be given to staff so that they can express ideas. Equally important is that those good ideas are implemented. Leaders empower and are equitable. Opportunities are provided for all, regardless of gender, race, or position. In doing so a leader is transparent and has nothing to hide.



Relationships: if you build them, they will follow.

OTHER IDEAS

People make mistakes and you will too. Forgiveness is needed.

There may be roles and titles, but effective leaders make others feel as if they are equals. Management styles should be based on equality as opposed to hierarchies.

In an ever changing world life long learning is needed for all. Educate people.

Hold people accountable. This is done by treating them as equals.

Spend quality time with staff. Check on them to see how they are doing.

You are the training video. Leaders set the example.

Pray for others. Think of others.

Praise is given publicly and privately.

Recognize all staff. Make all feel valued and encouraged.

Reverse traditional roles. Serve the staff and see what you can do for them.

Let your staff know that they are loved. Don't be held together by a paycheck.

Defend your staff. Let them know that you will support them.

“Present your family and friends with their eulogies now—they won't be able to hear how much you love them and appreciate them from inside the coffin.” - Anonymous

WE ONLY WIN WHEN WE ALL WIN

For Jesus being a leader was all about others. People wanted to follow Him because of it. He gave authority to others. He made it such that people would remember Him. One reason for this is that He raised people up. He wanted all to join in His accomplishments. He treated people as a gift from God and treated them accordingly. He

never gave up and specifically he never gave up believing in others. The commitment was made to others and that commitment was always present, even when times were tough. Jesus put people at the top of the priority list and considered His relationships with them as one of His great accomplishments. Fittingly, the chapter

ends with the following title, “He Knew That Nobody Wins Until We All Do.” (p.289)



Jesus, CEO

LAURIE BETH JONES

Other books by the author:

The Four Elements of Success

Personal Notes to the Graduate

The Path

Jesus Life Coach

Teach Your Team to Fish

Jesus in Blue Jeans

Jesus Entrepreneur

U S I N G A N C I E N T W I S D O M F O R V I S I O N A R Y L E A D E R S H I P

OVERVIEW

Jesus, CEO by Laurie Beth Jones is one of the better books I have read relating to leadership. It incorporates a faith dimension that is appealing, but not overwhelming as to dissuade non-practicing Christians.

The format utilized, in which numerous short stories are told to highlight various points, make the book a very easy read. It also breaks down a complex issue like leadership into manageable pieces.

Practical is the one word I

would use to describe this book. At the end of each story are reflective questions that if completed will go a long way in establishing yourself as an effective leader. By using this format the book becomes a workbook and guide all in one.

After reading this book I feel that many tools were provided to enhance my leadership capabilities. The book simply made sense. It was not complex or too difficult to understand. It wasn't vague or hint at ideas. It delivered as promoted on the cover. It

was a book for visionary leadership.



“Jesus, CEO’ details a simple, profound, fresh, and often humor-filled approach to motivating and managing others.”

Google Books

“The main strengths of the book are the questions at the end of each chapter and the affirmations at the end of the book. Given the easy reading and length of the individual chapters, we find this book to be a good resource for a leader looking to understand the heart of leadership.”

Rising Sun Consultants