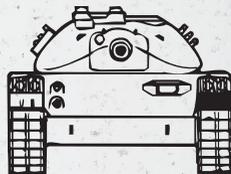


GET DOWN - IT'S THE WAY UP



WARM UP

It's the final match of the Rugby World Cup. You are sitting on the bench, proudly wearing your black jersey as reserve first five. It's into injury time and the score is 15 all. Suddenly our first five and kicker is taken out in a high tackle. We're awarded a penalty, just on our side of halfway, close to the touch line... and there's a wind blowing. You are called on, the skipper hands you the ball, "Kick for goal" he grunts. You look at the posts, which seem further away than before. What do you want to do?

It's obvious. Of course you want kick that goal, win the match and the World Cup for your team and country.

BACKGROUND

When Jesus gave us this Great Commission, He commanded us to go, to lead, to teach.

When someone signs up for the armed forces or takes up a job, their boss or commanding officer gives them certain responsibilities. The directive is not the responsibility of the employee; it is given by the superior. So, my brother, if you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Master, then you are qualified. Not because you say so, but because He says so. You joined up.

Be a "leader" not a "dictator". Leaders desire to benefit the ones they lead. It is based upon sacrificial love. Dictators desire to benefit themselves. It is based upon lust. Leaders serve. That is the essence of godly leadership.

You are designed to be a hero, a leader, a champion. It has been hard-wired into you by a creator God who knew what He was doing. As men, we all dream of doing something great.

READ Matthew 28:18; Matthew 18:1-5; Mark 9:35-37; Luke 9:46-48



QUESTIONS

1. When have you been put on the spot and had to take the lead?

2. What are some of the things you have done in life without any expectation of reward, but have just served?

3. When have you been willing to step back and give another man a chance to lead? What has been the result?

4. Who have you seen as a great leader? What is it about them that causes them to lead?

CONSIDER THIS

Humility is the essence of servanthood, and the primary characteristic of leadership. Your desire to benefit others is what qualifies you to lead. The more you serve, the greater you become. See Mark 10:42-45. Humility is the key to greatness in Jesus' eyes.

WRAP UP

The core value in humility is self-esteem - feeling good about yourself. It's not always about being the first, the best, or even right. But it is all about being righteous - even if it means admitting you are wrong.



IT'S TIME FOR PRAYER

MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER

As a Promise Keeper I will take the initiative to live as a better father, as a better man at work, as a better husband and as a man involved in the ministry of the church.

