

AFRICA LINK

The AABS headquarters is located at Stop 69 on the road from America House to Adjiringanor. Look for the signboard at Stop 69. We hope to see you there!

Servant leaders love their leaders dearly, but hold them loosely. They see their team, not as 'theirs' but as 'His.'

AFRICA LINK is a publication of the Africa Association of Bible Schools.



Africa Assoc. of Bible Schools
PMB KA 130
Accra, Ghana

Phone: +233- 546-746209
+233- 547-109732
+234-8064786721
+228- 995-02478
Email: aabsafrica@yahoo.com
Website: www.africaabs.org

A Ministry of Eastern
Mennonite Mission



Going where the church is not... yet.

John the Baptist: Releasing Leaders

John the Baptist did a great job of calling and empowering a team around him. But his true greatness as a servant leader is found in the way he released leaders. Many leaders are able to raise teams; few are willing to release them! But John released his team (John 1:29-37). John released his disciples! John saw three things that freed him to release leaders and shows all servant leaders how to let go!

John saw his mission with precision. *"the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."* John knew why he was a leader. It was not about his gifting and calling; it was far greater than that. He was called to reveal Jesus to others. Part of that calling was to build a team around him, and he did it well. But he understood that his mission was a part of a greater purpose. So, he could release his disciples. His mission was crystal-clear. It is easy along the way to lose the focus of our mission. We might begin with a call to exalt Christ in our church, our business, or our profession. But with time, we begin to focus on the tasks and outcomes more than the central mission. When we focus more on our own team than the overall mission we will not release leaders to go elsewhere.

Servant leaders understand that the Great Commission will not be fulfilled until leaders release leaders.

John saw his men with perspective . John was there with *"two of his disciples."* Every leader loves to stand with "their team." It feels good to see the way they have developed and the maturity in their lives. We all like to introduce "our" team. But John saw his leaders in a different light. He saw them as men who were given to him for a time to shape and mold. He invested heavily in their lives and they were precious to him. But he knew that they were not 'his' disciples. Ultimately they belonged to Jesus. As the team leader, John was only a steward of these men for a time. There was also a time to release them. This perspective allowed John to let them go, and they joined Jesus' leadership team. He considered it an honor to release to Jesus' team men that he had been able to shape and prepare for that role.

John saw his master with passion. John saw Jesus and said, *"Look, the Lamb of God!"* He recognized that although Jesus was younger, He was present as someone greater. John was great, but Jesus was the master. John's passion for Jesus enabled him to release his disciples. One glimpse of Jesus is enough to change our perspective about "our" team and our desire to be in charge. Leaders love to lead, but when servant leaders fully see who Jesus is, they humbly acknowledge that He is in charge.

Servant leaders build teams with confidence and skill but, like John, freely release them when Jesus needs them on someone else's team.

Excerpts taken from an article written by Jon Byler. For more information about Jon and his ministry visit his website at www.LeadersServe.com