

## THREE HABITS OF SECURE PEOPLE

By Dana Chau

Leaders must be secure or they will stop leading. Stop leading the family, the business, the ministry. Stop leading others to Christ.

Leaders are human. And all human beings face fears, worries and inadequacies. Unless the leader overcomes insecurities, the insecurities will overwhelm the leader.

Insecurities result from the experience of loss, failure, rejection or unpredictability. Some signs of an insecure leader are defensiveness, workaholicism, paranoia, anxiousness and over-controlling. And insecurity negatively impacts health, relationships and performance.

Some cope with insecurity by holding onto what they have. Trying to get more. Giving in to please others. Or developing mental toughness.

### Consider Mark 1:21-39.

Here records early successes of Jesus' ministries. This is a dangerous season for leaders. The temptation of pride and people pleasing can dominate insecure leaders.

But the secure leader stays with the mission despite what the crowd wants (see Mark 1:36-39). Security enables us to do what God calls us to do even when it's unpopular. Even when it challenges the world's definition and measure for success.

How do we arrive at such security? I believe the key verse is Mark 1:35, "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed."

Mark correlates Jesus' prayer life with His security to live out God's plan for his life. ***Jesus' security is not tied to his popularity or power, but to his deep reliance upon God.***

We don't know what Jesus prayed for. But we do know what Jesus taught His disciples to pray. And that is a good place to begin, Matthew 6:9-13.

The acronym, **WIN**, sums it up: **W** for worship. **I** for intercede. **N** for navigate.

### Begin with Worship of God. Matt 6:9-10

Worship of the one true God frees our hearts from idols. From false securities. From negative emotions like worry and self-pity.

Worship of God teaches our hearts to learn and affirm that God is bigger than our problems. God's love and forgiveness are more real than our sins. Obedience to God's commands and plans are more important than our ambitions.

Fill your ears and hearts with worship music. Encounter the God of power, goodness and love. His Word is food to nourish our soul. His Spirit comforts us.

God made us to worship Him. We are healthiest in mind, body and soul, when we worship God. When we worship God, we see life and the world accurately.

### Next is Intercede for others. Matt 6:11-12

Intercession means praying for others. Pray for our children, our parents, our business partners, even our enemies. Peace and hope will replace our insecurities.

When we help others, others receive our help. When we pray for others, others receive God's help. Both are valuable, but God's help is more valuable.

Here's a suggestion. When praying for others, imagine praying **with** others. This helps us to stay focused and to empathize with those for whom we pray.

Interceding for others puts our lives in perspective. We are not the only ones with needs. And we remember God is our common help and hope in life.

### Finally, Navigate with God. Matt 6:13

Each morning listen and write down God's guidance as you ask God these three questions:

1. What matters most? I may not get paid for these, but if I don't do them, the marriage, the kids, the finances, etc. can never be what God intends.
2. What are my responsibilities this week? Personal, family, church and work.
3. Which of these does God want me to act on, to wait on or to pass on?

Navigate through life each morning with God. He will lead you to avoid living that requires repairing yesterday. He will lead you to live to prepare for a better tomorrow.

A secure leader is not one who has all his ducks in a row. He knows he lives in an imperfect world and will take risks for God. There will be sin, loss, failure, rejection and pain in the mix. He is secured not because of what he has, but because of how he lives. He is secured because he **WINS** with God.

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