

**GRAND COMMANDERY OF OKLAHOMA
Knights Templar State News for May 2022**

Web Site



Grand Commander SK James R. Taylor, Jr. REGC

Editor SK John E. King VEDGC, Email: jek41@sbcglobal.net Cell: (580) 471-0636



Grand Commanders Message

Greetings, Sir Knights:

It is indeed an honor and pleasure to serve as your Right Eminent Grand Commander for the 2022-2023 Templar Year. I would like to thank you Sir Knights for entrusting the office and duties of Grand Commander to me.

As I stated at the Grand Conclave, it is my belief that Templary is an extension of the ministry of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, that extension being the principle and philosophy of servant leadership.

You can find thousands of books about leadership that have been published through the ages. You could search the internet right now and find many books about how to be an effective leader — how to get people to follow and listen to you, how to achieve influence and make a difference. You would find books about how to make your name known, build your company or acquire positions of authority.

Leadership is not a new concept; there have been many leaders since the world was created. Jesus was one who flipped the narrative of leadership in a way that people did not expect. It is not the kind of strategy you would find in a best-selling “how-to” leadership book today.

In Matthew 20:25-28 (NLT), this is what Jesus said about leadership:

But Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. Even the Son of

Man came not to be served, but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

There is a phrase we use to describe the kind of person Jesus talks about in Matthew 20 — a “servant leader.” In Christ, the goal of our leadership is not to grab authority but to serve.

Leadership is not about making a name for ourselves. It is about glorifying God’s name and having the ability to love and respect the people in our care, using the authority we have been given with grace.

No matter if you are the CEO of an organization, an older sibling, the captain of a high-school football team, or a volunteer at a local charity, everyone is leading someone.

So how does one become a servant leader?

Over the next few months, six distinct characteristics of servant leaders will be presented for you to keep in mind. This month’s characteristic is integrity.

INTEGRITY

To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice. — Proverbs 21:3 (ESV)

As a servant leader, maybe the most significant characteristic is integrity. It is the foundation on which all other leadership characteristics are built. Proverbs 21:3 is a reminder that Jesus calls us to walk in the ways of righteousness and justice — our deeds should reflect our faith.

If we are servant leaders, we cannot cheat, lie, and manipulate our way to the top. We are called to be honest despite what society expects us to do.

Jesus tells us to humble ourselves and live lives with integrity.

The world tells us to do whatever it takes to achieve success and acclaim. Books tell us to dress and act a certain way to get noticed. Fairy tales tell us to just believe in ourselves.

Integrity is a deliberate lifestyle, reflecting a record of honesty and good character. We will stumble, and we will we fall short (because we are humans). But true servant leaders can overcome because they do not rely on themselves but on the Grace and Mercy of God.

Sir Knights, to be truly effective leaders, we must be servant leaders. As we prepare for the upcoming year and all that it encompasses (Stated Conclaves, Practices for Inspections, Inspections, Schools of Instruction, Festivals, Officer Elections, and any other Templar activity) I pray for the blessings and peace of our Lord over your lives.

In His Service,
James R. Taylor, Jr.
R.: E.: Grand Commander



Grand Prelate's Message

When we look at the sayings of Solomon and the wise men of Israel, we began with Proverbs 1

It occurs to me that it would be worthwhile to return to it as we consider for the final time our tendency to substitute knowledge for wisdom. This is not only a daily grind; it is a lifetime challenge!

How easy it is to acquire knowledge, yet how difficult and painstaking is the process of gaining wisdom. Man, shares knowledge; God gives wisdom. Knowledge comes as we get an education, either by absorbing what the highly educated have to say or by simply gathering information here and there along life's road. But what about the wisdom that is from above? As you already know, there is no course, no school and no earthly data bank where divine wisdom can be accessed. And unlike knowledge, which can be measured in objective analyses, quantified by exams, and certified by diplomas and degrees, wisdom defies measurement; it is much more subjective, takes far more time to acquire, and has a great deal to do with our attitude. One can be knowledgeable, yet distant from the living God. But those who are wise know the Lord God by faith in His Son, Jesus Christ, and they also hold Him in awe and respect. "Fear of the Lord" is still the beginning of wisdom as well as the truest indicator of its presence in a person.

So how does one obtain wisdom? And now that we have come to the end of our search through the sayings of Israel's wisest men, how can we continue our pursuit of God's wisdom? Also, what are some ways to guard against falling back into our habit of substituting knowledge for wisdom?

SK Steven Cox
E.: Grand Prelate



2022 -2023 GRAND COMMANDERY OFFICERS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| James R. Taylor, Jr. [20] | Grand Commander |
| John E. King [22] | Deputy Grand Commander |
| Glen A. Chaney [18] | Grand Generalissimo |
| John T. Turner [38] | Grand Captain General |
| Steven E. Cox [2] | Grand Prelate |
| Kent M. Israel [22] | Grand Treasurer |
| Elwood "Ike" M. Isaacs [20, 26] | Grand Treasurer Emeritus |
| Jon B. Greene [20] | Grand Recorder |
| Gary A. Davis [8, 20] | Grand Recorder Emeritus |
| Mark K. McFadden [2] | Grand Senior Warden |
| Trasen S. Akers [3] | Grand Junior Warden |
| Brian M. Ragain [18] | Grand Standard Bearer |
| Robert W. McLeod [20] | Grand Sword Bearer |
| Jay A. Wall [1] | Grand Warder |
| Justin M. McGee [8, 14] | Grand Sentinel |