

All right who knows what Albert Einstein is famous for? Exactly, light bulb! New line b

But he also said something equally worth acknowledging:

Setting an example is not the main means of influencing another, it is the only means”.

Almost a century ago Einstein was talking about influencers!

Did you know that 57% of high school students aspired to become an influencer? To be an influence means: the capacity to have an effect on the character, development, or behavior of someone or something.

Centuries before Einstein, Jesus lived his life as an example not only to the crew of 12 he led for three years but for us today. Jesus would talk in ways that were out of the ordinary but carried a profound message. Like “whoever wants to save his life will lose it but whoever loses his life because of me will find it.” And here's another one, “whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave”. I'd say that's a different take on being an influencer!

The thing is great leaders are great servants because just being given a position or a title does not make you a leader. You're not a leader if people aren't following you and what are they following they're following your example, the example of using your talents not only for your own benefit but also to help other people. Is your *sport specific metric* at the top of the stats? How can you help the players who are at the lower end of that same list? Do you see a team member struggling to fit in with the team? How about you becoming their first best friend and teammate?

As a leader and a servant, everything you do should be to make your team better sometimes that might be teaching someone. Sometimes A1 on one conversation. Sometimes being an example. Jesus set the example of selfless living. Living for the privilege and opportunity to serve others and not elevate himself. This kind of servant leadership is hard work period it is not easy. You must have determination. You must be physically tough. You must be mentally strong. And all those characteristics are ones that encompass not what the team can do for you but it's what you can do for the team.

Leadership is not about taking, getting, receiving and leveraging advantages of leadership and opportunities it's about serving others and that is far more honorable, esteemed, remembered and impactful than making it all about you. This mindset if you start here today will serve you well on this team whether you become captain or not it will serve you in college or in your first full time job. It will serve you in your friend groups, in your family that you are a part of now and the one you will have one day of your own. In whatever capacity

that you are a leader you are an example you are an influencer and the best leaders are servant leaders so think about the way you could be an example, an influencer, a servant leader to your teammates, classmates, family and friends.

What examples from history to the present day do you see as good examples of servant leaders?

Why do you think so many people in government athletics entertainment and society tend to live opposite of this idea of servant leadership?