

MESSAGE NOTES



Series: The Bad Boys of Easter
Message: I'm the Boss
Speaker: Rusty Coram
Date: March 15th, 2026

Those who represent God in church leadership will be strictly judged for their actions and attitudes.

"Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly."
 James 3:1 (NLT)

How to recognize God-honoring leaders and influencers

They make God's priorities their own.

"He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less."
 John 3:30 (NLT)

They resist pride and embrace humility.

"¹ Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ² 'The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees are the official interpreters of the law of Moses. ³ So practice and obey whatever they tell you, but don't follow their example. For they don't practice what they teach. ⁴ They crush people with unbearable religious demands and

never lift a finger to ease the burden.

⁵ *"Everything they do is for show."*

Matthew 23:1–5 (NLT)

They use their power and influence to benefit others.

"⁴² So 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. ⁴³ But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.'"

Mark 10:42–45 (NLT)

They are willing to sacrifice their own interests for the sake of God and others.

"⁴⁹ Caiaphas, who was high priest at that time, said, 'You don't know what you're talking about! ⁵⁰ You don't realize that it's better for you that one man should die for the people than for the whole nation to be destroyed.' ⁵¹ He did not say this on his own; as high priest at that time he was led to prophesy that Jesus would die for the entire nation. ⁵² And not only for that nation, but to bring together and unite all the children of God scattered around the world."

⁵³ So from that time on, the Jewish leaders began to plot Jesus' death."

John 11:49-53 (NLT)

"Go and gather together all the Jews of Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will do the same. And then, though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king. If I must die, I must die."

Esther 4:16 (NLT)

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS:

NLT- New Living Translation

TAKE HOME SHEET



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Take a moment and think of some current, popular leaders/influencers around you – in all areas of life.

What about them is attractive to you and others?

Now, think about them from God's perspective. How do you think He sees them?

Review the message notes and think about your own sphere of influence. All of us have people who are watching and listening to us. How are we using the opportunity we have to be God-honoring examples of faith?

Caiphas may have started out with good intentions, but we can see that he made His own agenda the priority. It can happen to any of us. The model prayer Jesus gave us reminds us of how to protect our thinking:

⁹Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. ¹⁰May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."

Matthew 6:9–10 (NLT)

What is one thing that you can do this week to strengthen your commitment to honor God and show others a good example?

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