

# Blanchard outlines leadership at Willson Lectures

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PLAINVIEW—Jesus offered the greatest leadership model the world ever has seen, management guru Ken Blanchard told a crowd at [Wayland Baptist University](#).

Blanchard, author of *The One Minute Manager* and *Lead Like Jesus*, was the featured speaker for the Willson Lectures, an annual series on topics related to applied Christianity and Christian home and family life established by the James M. and Mavis Willson family of Floydada.

Ken Blanchard, author of *The One Minute Manager* and *Lead Like Jesus*, visits with Wayland Baptist University professors Barbara Carr and Linda Hutcherson at a reception after serving as featured speaker for the Willson Lectures. (WAYLAND PHOTO)

Blanchard described how he had been raised a Presbyterian and converted to Methodism because Methodists had a better basketball team. During his time in college, Blanchard drifted away from Christianity. When he and his wife, Marge, returned to the church, the hypocrisy was more than they could stand. They left religion behind.

It wasn't until the success of *The One Minute Manager* that Blanchard began feeling the call back to Christ.

"It was so successful that I was having trouble taking credit for it," he said.

Blanchard recalled a conversation he had with Robert Schuller, pastor of the Crystal Cathedral in California, who pointed out Jesus was the original

one-minute manager. God then began placing people in Blanchard's life who encouraged him to surrender to Christ, he recalled.

His journey reached its pinnacle one evening as he and his wife were driving home, wondering how to deal with a manager in his company who had different ideas on how to run the company.

Being the consummate people-pleaser, Blanchard wasn't looking forward to talking with the manager. It was at that point that he recalled a conversation he had had with someone who pointed out that trusting God was like hiring three consultants—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—for the price of one.

"That was language I could understand," he said.

Once he turned to God for help, Blanchard said, the situation resolved itself. He went to speak to the manager who simply quit before any confrontation was required.

Blanchard picked up his Bible and began studying the leadership style of Jesus, realizing it was everything that he had written about in his many books.

"I found that this guy is the greatest leadership role model of all time," Blanchard said.

What he also found in his research was that religious schools and churches were not teaching about Jesus being a great leader. They focused on other aspects of his ministry, but not on the example he set for leading a group of followers.

Through his personal study, Blanchard came to believe the next great movement in leadership is going to be through "demonstration, not proclamation." This led him to develop what he feels are the four key

components of leading like Jesus—heart, head, hand and habits.

The heart, Blanchard said, deals with personal character. "Are you here to serve or be served?" Blanchard asked.

The head asks the question, "What does servant leadership mean?" A strong leader must have a vision, direction and values and be able to communicate that to his followers, Blanchard said. A leader must also be able to implement those values.

The hands deal with behavior and performance. To lead like Jesus, one must coach his followers to be successful in their jobs.

"Jesus wants people to win," Blanchard said. "How do you take this philosophy into an organization?"

In dealing with habits, Blanchard based his writing on five habits of Jesus that he sees throughout the Bible—times of solitude, prayer, reading Scripture, being accountable to a small group and trusting in the unconditional love of God.