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Book Review: The Mind of the Leader

Ivy Lubeck
Brigham Young University

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Book Review: The Mind of the Leader

By Ivy Lubeck

If the main message of a book is the main message of King Benjamin's sermon, it's guaranteed to be a good one.

The Mind of the Leader by Rasmus Hougaard and Jacqueline Carter, teaches one how to be an effective, compassionate, and mindful leader. It follows the stories of several successful companies and CEOs, most notably, the Marriott hotels (our namesake!). The book highlights what makes a good leader and how to develop those attributes.

First and foremost, the book talks about having compassion—about seeing employees as individuals of great worth and valuing them as such. It talks about caring for oneself, about being aware of your own needs and taking care of those so you are better able to collaborate with others. It talks about the importance of selflessness in leadership—about sacrificing some of your own comfort to help those who are struggling.

One powerful story shared in the article was the story of a company during COVID who showed uncommon kindness toward each other, working as a loving unit. Because the company was struggling, they knew they could not keep all their employees working. Instead of laying people off, the company decided together that each individual would take two weeks unpaid time off, alleviating some of the financial burdens of the company.

With this story and many others, Hougaard and Jacqueline inspire readers with stories of true, compassionate leadership.

As Ryan Carr wrote in an Ensign article, "Christlike leaders are servants; they help, teach, and encourage those they serve. They seek to bless others, as the Savior did: 'He doeth not anything save it be for the benefit of the world' (2 Nephi 26:24)."

The Mind of the Leader reiterates these eternal truths, testifying to the fact that all people are guided by the light of Christ that burns within us.

"Behold, ye have called me your king; and if I, whom ye call your king, do labor to serve you, then ought not ye to labor to serve one another?"

