

Biblical Leadership Deuteronomy 17:14-20

Main point – God’s desire is to have leaders and people strongly dependent upon the Lord. God wants us to have Him as our King!

- Written for future king, post Moses, Joshua, Judges/priests
- Written not just for kings = leaders of God’s people – denominational, church, board/committee, teachers, ...don’t tune out, think @ Canada’s next World cup game/Blue Jays...

The Command is for Godly Leadership

1. The Requirements for Godly Leadership

- “the Lord chooses” (15)
 - Just wait – no voice? No need? No!
 - OT Kings/leaders often id’d by prophets, here – boards, so if you are asked, truly consider, is this God’s plan?
- “from brothers/believers” (15)
 - skill, experience, expertise, personality...none of these are enough
 - Why? Only those in relationship with God and with community of faith = hear God
 - A person in Godly leadership of God’s people must have relationship with God!

2. The Heartbeat of Godly Leadership

- Not greedy for power (16)

- Horses represented power – chariots/ cavalry – more is better but to God less is better
- Why? – depend on Him, not our ability! + to get them = Egypt, “No!”
 - For us – no horses, but reputation, influence, appearance, selfishness...not to get, but to serve God!
- Show purity in relationships (17) – not many wives
 - Lot I could say here – most would get me into trouble!
 - Not b/c women are problematic necessarily but 2 reasons
 - “Many” wives could often come from different nations, faith, diluting kings’ beliefs – OT God regularly warns
 - Many wives have many influences – affecting King’s ear for God
- Not materialistic (17) – gold silver...
 - Godly leaders are not to want stuff because it can win over our hearts!
 - See it over and over – evangelists selling stuff, not revealing expenses
 - Be assured here – volunteer – no perks! Just the joy of serving God!
- ⇒ Heartbeat of a Christian Leader is upon God, not power, impure relationships, things!
- ⇒ These can all steal our heart if we don’t guard our hearts

- **Proverbs 4:23** – “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”

3. The Focus of Godly Leadership

➤ On God's Word

- Copy it for self (18) - law
- Carry it with him (19) – with him
- Read it daily (19) – read it every day
- Focus on God's word because through it God gives direction, God convicts, God encourages, God teaches, God trains ALL OF US!
- Our desire to have you in Bible study and prayer groups – even at board meetings to read God's word, “business” meetings to start with God,
=> trains us to respect God, to follow God fully and to be humble

Note

- No focus on ability!
- No focus on personality – extroverts often are seen as leaders
- No focus on “success”
- Baptized today
 - ⇒ Often God surprises us with leaders
 - ⇒ Promise here is for long, good leadership

Solomon's reign

Violated these commands, destroying his life and kingdom (1 Kings 10:14-11:10)

His heart – 1 Kings 11:9

Are You a Leader?

S. I. McMillen, in his book *None of These Diseases*, tells a story of a young woman who wanted to go to college, but her heart sank when she read the question on the application blank that asked, “Are you a leader?” Being both honest and conscientious, she wrote, “No,” and returned the application, expecting the worst. To her surprise, she received this letter from the college:

“Dear Applicant: A study of the application forms reveals that this year our college will have 1,452 new leaders. We are accepting you because we feel it is imperative that they have at least one follower.”

S. I. McMillen, *None of These Diseases*.