

# Leadership: What Makes a Good Leader?

The five points I want to consider today are:

1. Be Clothed with humility
2. Be Faithful to God and Others
3. Do What is Right
4. Expect Others to Do What is Right
5. Expect Consequences for Doing Wrong

## Be Clothed With Humility

**Num 12:3** *Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.*

The first step to becoming a good leader is to be **humble**.  
In order to be humble, you must understand the **greatness** of God!

**Exod 15:1-2,7,11-13** *I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider he has thrown into the sea! The LORD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation; he is my God, and I will praise Him; my father's God, and I will exalt Him.... And in the greatness of Your excellence you have overthrown those who rose against You; you sent forth Your wrath; it consumed them like stubble.... Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? You stretched out Your right hand; the earth swallowed them. You in Your mercy have led forth the people whom You have redeemed; you have guided them in Your strength to Your holy habitation.*

Moses was humble because he understood how **awesome** God is.

**Exod 3:5-6** *Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground." Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father--the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.*

When Moses was in the presence of God, he was **afraid**.

**Exod 3:11** *But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"*

Moses did not think he was good enough to go to **Pharaoh** and ask for him to release God's people.

**David** and Gideon had similar attitudes when God wanted them to lead his people.

**Ps 8:1-4** *O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth, who set Your glory above the heavens! Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants you have ordained strength,*

*because of Your enemies, that You may silence the enemy and the avenger. When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?*

**Matt 20:25-28** *But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. "And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave-- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*

Great leaders do not **lord** their authority over others.

Great leaders are great **servants**.

Read Numbers 12:4-16

**Prov 8:13** *The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate.*

**Prov 11:2** *When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble is wisdom.*

**Prov 16:18** *Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.*

**Prov 29:23** *A man's pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor.*

The only thing that comes from pride is **destruction**.

Pride destroys people and **relationships**.

**1 Sam 9:21** *And Saul answered and said, "Am I not a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel, and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then do you speak like this to me?"*

**1 Sam 15:17** *So Samuel said, "When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel?"*

When Saul started out as leader, he was **humble**.

**Pride** was what brought Saul down.

Herod's pride caused him to be **eaten** by **worms**.

## **Be Faithful to God and Others**

**Num 12:7** *Not so with My servant Moses; **he is faithful** in all My house.*

**Gen 39:5-6** *So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the*

*LORD was on all that he had in the house and in the field. So he left all that he had in Joseph's hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate. And Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.*

In order to be a good leader we must be faithful to **God**.

**Dan 6:4-5** *So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him. Then these men said, "We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the law of his God."*

Those trying to trap Daniel could find no fault with Daniel because he was **faithful** to God. If they were going to find anything wrong with Daniel they were going to have to find something concerning **his God**.

As Christians we should be faithful to our promises. When a person commits adultery we call that unfaithfulness.

Faithfulness is based on one's ability to keep his word.

## **Do What is Right**

Great men and women of God always do what they know is right regardless of the **consequences**.

There is no room for **situational** ethics among God's people.

Saul practiced situation ethics.

**1 Sam 15:18-21** *"Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.' "Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?" And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. "But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal."*

Saul was a **leader** of God's people. He bore the responsibility for the sin.

**Gen 39:8-9** *But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"*

**Joseph** did not practice situation ethics and he became a great leader.

## Expect Others To Do What is Right

**John 8:32** *And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

**John 18:37-38** *Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all."*

Truth is that Christ is our **King**.

Those who understand truth **hear** the voice of Jesus.

Hearing the voice of Jesus means we **do** what He says.

In John 14:15 Jesus said that if we love Him we will keep his commandments.

God **demand**s and expects us to keep his commandments.

There are no **optional** commandments of God.

**1 Cor 5:3-7** *For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.*

Paul expected others to do what was **right**.

Christians cannot put up with sexual immorality!

A casual view of sexual immorality **spreads** like leaven.

## Expect Consequences for Wrong Doing

**2 Sam 12:7-15** *Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. 8 I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more! 9 Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon. 10 Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' 11 Thus says the Lord: 'Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. 12 For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing*

*before all Israel, before the sun." 13 So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." And Nathan said to David, "The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die. 14 However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die." 15 Then Nathan departed to his house. NKJV*

Although David was forgiven for his sin, there were still **consequences**. Part of the reason David had to suffer these consequences was because he was a **leader**. David gave people an opportunity to **blaspheme** the Lord. Moses was punished for not showing proper **respect** toward God.

**Heb 12:14-17** *Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: 15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; 16 lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. 17 For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears. NKJV*

Esau suffered because of a bad **decision** he had made years earlier.

## **Practical Application**

- Leadership starts in the home. Parents need to live what they preach.
- Expect your leaders to live up to God's standard.
- Expect others to live up to God's standard.
- Stop excusing sin!