

SEARCHING FOR A LEADER

This country is in need of leaders. Not only in politics but in every aspect of our country. With our presidential election just around the corner everyone is talking about leadership. Some, like the leader we currently have but, it seems most **don't. Everywhere I** look there is no real leadership. However, when we study the Word of God, we find many examples of leaders and great leadership. We are in desperate need of leaders today. We are in need of leaders in the family, leaders in the workplace, leaders in the military, leaders in politics, student-leaders, and leaders in the athletic area.

I know of some, young men and women who have the potential to be great leaders. Many are children or grandchildren of those who take the study of the Word of God seriously and are passing the information on to these youngsters (young men and women).

Whether they will stick with the program only time will tell but I can tell you they are getting the foundation from their parents and grandparents that they will need to be leaders in this nation. Will it be enough? If you look at Ecclesiastes 9:15 you see it only took one man to preserve a nation. The passage says, **“But there was found in it (a city) a poor wise man and he delivered the city by his wisdom...”**.

So, we're going to study the next couple of nights leaders from scripture. **We're not going to go in depth because of** time constraints. I hope to hit the high points so we can see examples of some real leaders.

We will see that leaders need to have authority orientation, they need have humility (without arrogance), they need

patience, and they must have their priorities correct (advancing spiritually), and know they serve the Lord first and everything else follows. We will also see that each of them failed at various times in their lives. Leaders are not perfect. They are flawed just like you and me.

What I hope to do tonight, and tomorrow is to introduce you to a couple of these leaders as well as get a few points on:

1. Authority orientation
2. Humility
3. Patience
4. Leadership

We won't hit all the great leaders in the Word of God. There are so many. I could have chosen Esther, Paul, Gideon, so many others especially the Lord Jesus Christ!! **But let's get** started with Joshua.

Joshua

In Numbers 27:15-21 we see Moses is going to die and he commissions Joshua to take over as leader.

PRINCIPLE: God will promote you in His perfect timing. Your job is to be ready by continuing to grow spiritually. If **God doesn't promote you then you are not promoted!** Joshua understood authority orientation!

1. First we see Joshua was a leader willing to step-up to the plate – Joshua 1:1-6:

Vs.1: “Now it came about after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, **Moses’** servant, saying, Vs.2: “**Moses** My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel. Vs.3: Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses. Vs.4: From the wilderness and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun will be your territory. Vs.5: No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Vs.6: Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.”

2. Joshua led the Israelites into Canaan, in the conquests of the land, and in the organization of the land. (Joshua 3:14-17)

3. Joshua was a leader who was willing to follow – Joshua 1:7:

Vs.7: “Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go.”

4. Joshua was a leader who had people willing to follow him – Joshua 1:16-17:

Vs.16: “**Then they answered Joshua, “Whatever you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. Vs.17: Just as we obeyed Moses, so we will obey **you...**”**

5. Joshua was a leader who had no problem leading the way
– Joshua 3:6-8:

Vs.6: “**And Joshua spoke to the priests, saying, “Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over ahead of the people.” So, they took up the ark of the covenant and went ahead of the people.”**

Vs.7: “Now the Lord **said to Joshua, “This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you.**

Vs.8: You shall, moreover, command the priests who are carrying the ark of the covenant, **saying, ‘When you come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.’**”

What made Joshua a strong leader that God could use?

1. Joshua lived and submitted to **God’s authority**, His leadership, **and under the direction of God’s word**. He was spiritually courageous; he trusted God in order to carry out his duties. (Numbers 14:5-9)

2. He communicated God’s will to the people. (Joshua 1:10-11)

3. He was a loyal follower. He went at Moses’ instruction to spy out the land of Canaan the first time around. (Numbers 14).

4. He had humility. (Exodus 24:13)

5. Joshua was brave. He fought the Amalekites as a soldier serving under Moses (Exodus 17:8-16).

6. Joshua did as Moses directed and learned from Moses who was a strong leader. We become good leaders by being good followers. How can we be effective leaders if we do not learn to follow first? And no matter how long we lead we still can learn from others.

7. Joshua was also a humble servant (Exodus 24:13 and Exodus 33:11) and we see from these verses how he served Moses as his assistant and the guard of the **“tent of meeting”**. **Joshua didn't choose to be Moses' assistant, God chose him.**

PRINCIPLE: **Remember God uses prepared people! It's our job to get prepared.**

Authority Orientation

1. Authority Orientation is the first asset a leader must have. It starts with accepting the authority of Jesus Christ and submitting to that authority.

2. Authority is the right and power to command, enforce, exact obedience, make decisions, and judge. The central issue in life is authority.

3. There is authority in angelic and human life.

4. Authority protects, regulates, and makes freedom possible. Authority is a part of the Laws of Divine Establishment.

5. God is the supreme authority. All creation is subject to His authority. (Psalm 103:19; 135:5-6; Isaiah 40:18-26; Daniel 4:25 and 34-37; Acts 4:19-20 and 5:29; Romans 9:20-23 and 13:1; Revelation 19:16).

Psalm 103:19: **“The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty rules over-all.”**

6. God has delegated authority to certain individuals among mankind. (Romans 13:1)

Romans 13:1: **“Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.”**

7. God has instituted human authority in order to:

- a. Protect free will.
- b. Protect the human race from self-destruction.
- c. Give order to life.
- d. Maintain peace.
- e. Allow the gospel and Bible Doctrine to spread.

f. Support the believers’ witness by their authority
orientation in a rebellious world.

8. Authority is the right to rule and make decisions.

9. The authority within the local church is the pastor-teacher. (Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Timothy 3:1 and 5; 2 Timothy 4:2; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:1-4)

Hebrews 13:17: **“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.”**

10. The authority in marriage is the husband. (Ephesians 5:22-25)

Ephesians 5:22-25: **“Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. Vs.23: For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, he Himself being the Savior of the body. Vs.24: But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. Vs.25: Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.”**

11. The authority in the family is the parents. (Ephesians 6:1-2; Colossians 3:20)

Ephesians 6:1: **“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.”**

Colossians 3:20: **“Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.”**

12. The authority on the job is the owner or management. (Ephesians 6:5-8; Colossians 3:22; 1 Peter 2:18)

1 Peter 2:18: **“Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable.”**

13. Obedience to authority is not demeaning.

14. The authority within the nation is the king, constitution, president, governor, and appropriate delegated authority such as police officer, teacher, coach. (Matthew 22:21; Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17)

1 Peter 2:13: **“Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority.”**

15. Submission in 1 Peter 2:13 is the placing of yourself under the authority of another. Submission results in obedience. Correct submission requires humility. Submission is authority orientation. Believers first submit to God, then to the proper authorities.

PRINCIPLE: Authority is not always fair. God wants us to honor the office of king, the constitution, or the highest authority in the land even if the person who is king at the time is dishonorable. This is the basis for authority, freedom, responsibility, and order. (1 Peter 2:17)

16. No matter what we are to submit to divinely appointed authority. It may be a child at home, or it may be, you on the job or it could be a wife at home with a husband.

17. Authority has the right to rule and make decisions. God is the absolute authority. He has expressed His authority in His written word. (1 Peter 2:13-15)

18. **God's authority establishes freedom, freedom requires responsibility, responsibility protects freedom and restrains authority.** (1 Peter 2:13, 15-17)

Daniel

Daniel was not the most educated person. He was educated, **but he wasn't the most educated. Daniel was fortunate, but he wasn't the most fortunate. He had friends in high places,** but so did other people. However, Daniel was singled out by every administration as one who operated in excellence.

Daniel 1:19: “And the king communed with them; and among them all, was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; **so they entered the king’s personal service.**”

Out of all that the king reviewed there was none like Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Daniel 1:20: “And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.”

Daniel 5:12: “This was because an extraordinary spirit, knowledge and insight, interpretation of dreams, explanation of enigmas and solving of difficult problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar. Let Daniel now be summoned, and he will declare the interpretation.”

Daniel 5:14: “Now I have heard about you that a spirit of the gods is in you, and that illumination, insight and extraordinary wisdom have been found in you.”

1. **Here is the sum total of Daniel’s review** (OER), “**He is better than all the rest.**” (10 times better)

2. **Daniel was God’s man for the hour!**

Charles Spurgeon says, “The hour will need its man and if you are ready you as a man shall not be without your hour.”

3. Even though Daniel came in as a slave, he still worked and did his best and step by step he kept being promoted. He never asked to be promoted. He never sought a promotion.

4. Daniel was committed to remaining faithful to God. He never, ever quit.

Proverbs 3:1: “My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:”

5. He was committed to maintaining his own convictions and **keeping God’s commandments.**

6. **Daniel didn’t rest on his own skills but trusted the Lord** for all things.

Proverbs 3:5 – “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.”

7. Daniel was courageous. He had plenty of reasons to be afraid. He was captured as a teenager and taken to a foreign land. He was separated from his godly family and forced to live among pagans. He was routinely tested both academically and spiritually. He met face to face with greatest ruler of his day. **He was tossed in a Lion’s Den.** Yet Daniel did not allow fear to control him. Daniel focused on God, not on his **circumstances. Daniel obeyed God’s laws,** not the pagan laws. And through Daniels love, faith, and obedience to God, he thrived in an ungodly land. (Daniel 6 (Especially verses 16-23))

Proverbs 3:6: **“In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”**

NOTE: Daniel could have been bitter, angry and vindictive. But he put aside issues from the past. He was kidnapped; he was taken into captivity by Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel, however, put aside those issues. Daniel recognized that God put him in that place. He had humility!

Humility

The second asset a leader needs is humility:

1. Humility is freedom from pride and arrogance. This requires orientation to authority as well as objective thinking over subjective thinking.
2. Humility is a way of thinking about oneself in relation to God and others. (Daniel 5:23; Philippians 3:21; James 1:9-11)
3. It is the opposite of pride or arrogance. (Proverbs 11:2; 29:23; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5-6; 1 Corinthians 13:4; Daniel 4:37)
4. Humility is a mental attitude which Jesus Christ demonstrated. (Matthew 11:29; Acts 8:33; Philippians 2:8)

Matthew 11:29: **“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, you and you will rest for your souls.”**

5. Humility is the mental attitude that is required for right action within a group of believers (Philippians 2:2-5). Humility accepts the authority and organization that is necessary in any group, even the church.

Philippians 2:2-5: **“make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.**

Vs.3: Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;

Vs.4: do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

Vs.5: Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in **Christ Jesus.”**

6. When people abuse authority or reject rightful authority, they have also rejected personal humility; the result is a disruption in the harmony in relationships with others. (Numbers 16:1-35; Daniel 5:20-23; 1 Timothy 3:6; 1 Peter 5:5; Jude 11)

7. God planned that humility be a part of our lives (Ephesians 4:2): toward God (1 Kings 21:29; 2 Chronicles 7:14; James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:6) and toward people (Romans 12:16; Ephesians 4:2; Philippians 2:3; 1 Peter 3:8; 5:5).

8. Humility makes you teachable (James 1:21), makes spiritual growth possible (Proverbs 22:4; Philippians 2:8; James 1:21), always precedes true honor (Proverbs 15:33; 18:12; 1 Peter 5:6), and provides the capacity to receive grace blessings (James 4:6; 10; 1 Peter 5:5-6).

9. God will humble every person when Christ returns to earth. (Isaiah 2:11)

10. Humility is not a negative such as down grading yourself, thinking you cannot do anything, or a lack of confidence.

11. Humility is not by any means humiliation. Humility is the virtue of being free from arrogance while humiliation is to reduce your view of self to a lower status in your eyes or the eyes of others.

12. Having humility **doesn't mean you are weak. Humility** means you orient to authority and you are able to handle **authority even if it's unfair.**

13. Moses a believer with great authority, knowledge, leadership, and experience, was a humble man. (Numbers 12:3)

14. Christ demonstrated humility by becoming a man, living **under God the Father's plan, and dying on the cross for the** sins of the world. (Matthew 11:29; Philippians 2:8; Acts 8:33)

Philippians 2:8: **“Being found in appearance as a man, he humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”**

15. Humility should characterize our service to the Lord.
(Acts 20:19; 2 Corinthians 11:7; 12:21; James 4:11)

16. The humble person is not concerned about who gets the credit. He is concerned about doing his job as unto the Lord.
(Acts 20:19; 2 Corinthians 11:7)

17. Humility makes spiritual growth possible. (Proverbs 22:4; Philippians 2:8; James 1:21)

18. The humble person has the capacity to appreciate God’s blessings to him. (James 4:6; 10; 1 Peter 5:5-6)

19. God exalts or promotes the humble. (Matthew 23:12; Luke 1:48-52; 14:11; 18:14; James 4:10)

20. The dependence on human power and ability is reduced **to zero in biblical humility and the dependence on God’s** power and ability is increased to the max.

21. Humility is the root of all other virtues. Arrogance spoils everything. There can be no real love without humility.

1 Corinthians 13:4: **“Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant.”**

22. Humility is the total opposite of arrogance.

23. Humility is the quality or state of proper orientation to authority, orientation to life, and orientation to self.

a. Orientation to authority: 2 Corinthians 12:7; The apostle **Paul's orientation to** authority.

b. Orientation to life: Matthew 11:29; The Lord's provision in our lives is a relief from the daily burden of arrogance. Arrogance destroys our lives.

c. Orientation to self: Matthew 20:28; Our lives are not about us.

24. In the end, living a life of humility, obedience to the Word of God, is honorable (Proverbs 18:12; 29:23) and exalting (1 Peter 5:6).

David

For David to be God's man for the hour David first needed to have patience. **David was anointed as Israel's king when he** was a boy, probably in his teens. It was roughly 15 more years before David became the King as God had promised.

1. Having to wait 15 years **for something you've been promised, that's rightfully yours, is hard enough. But the** existing king, Saul, spent a fair portion of that time trying to kill David. This forced him to stay on the run, hiding in caves and fleeing to another country. At least twice, David had a

clear opportunity to kill Saul, **but David didn't. He knew that God was in control and trusted Him to wait on God's timing.**

Psalm 27:14: **“Wait for the Lord; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the Lord.”**

2. To be God's leader requires humility. So, **you're a lowly shepherd boy, and you're chosen as king. What do you do? If you're David, you go back to taking care of sheep.** When he does get called up to the palace, instead of demanding the throne, he works as a servant. He performs music for the king whenever Saul demands it.

3. When his dad asks the anointed king (David) to serve snacks to his older brothers, he serves snacks to his older brothers. David was humble. He knew that, even as king, he was still just a servant of the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

2 Samuel 7:18: **“Then David the king went in and sat before the Lord and he said, “Who am I, O Lord God and what is my house, that You have brought me this far?”**

4. To be God's leader requires courage. When Goliath came out to challenge the army of Israel, everyone was afraid of the giant. Besides being king, Saul was a head taller than any other Israelite (1 Samuel 9:2). So, when Goliath came out to **challenge the army of Israel, I'm sure people** were looking to him to do something. Instead, he was **“dismayed and terrified”** (1 Samuel 17:11), just like everyone else, except for David. The kid brother ends up comforting the scared king, **assuring Saul that he'd take care of it (1 Samuel 17:32).** And you know what happens next. David was brave because he **knew Who had his back. If you're on God's side, then there is nothing to fear—not even death.**

Psalm 27:1: **“A Psalm of David. The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; Whom shall I be afraid?”**

5. **To be God’s leader requires** faith. Throughout all of this, David showed that he had faith in God. He believed that God was in control. God had promised that David would be king, and **since he wasn’t king yet, that meant Saul couldn’t** kill him. Same with Goliath. When others brought up doubts, David pointed to evidence of how God had taken care of him in the past (1 Samuel 17:33-37). He trusted that God would continue to keep His promises.

Psalm 31:14-15: **“But as for me, I trust in You, O Lord, I say, “You are my God.”** Vs.15: My times are in Your hand; Deliver me from the hand of my enemies and from those who **persecute me.”**

6. **To be God’s leader requires** grace. Perhaps the most surprising thing about David being **“a man after God’s own heart”** is that he’s just as well-known for his mistakes as his successes. This is someone who raped the wife of one of his **Generals’**, tried to cover up the resulting pregnancy, and had her husband killed when that cover-**up didn’t work.**

7. The one thing David did was recognize when he sinned and confessed those sins to God. Check out Psalm 5:3-4 for one particular instance of him doing so. We also see Psalm 32:3 and 5:

Vs.3: **“When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away. Through my groaning all day long.”**

Verse 5: **“I acknowledged my sin to You. And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord; And you forgave the guilt of my sin.”**”

Note: **Being a good leader doesn't mean making the fewest mistakes; it means recognizing you've sinned and being quick to rebound and get back in fellowship.**