

Leaders Lead!

Ponder: Leaders or men-pleasers?

Scripture: When leaders lead in Israel, When the people willingly offer themselves, Bless the Lord!" (Judges 5:2, NKJV.)

What are leaders supposed to do? That may seem like a no-brainer, but too often we overlook the obvious. We call them leaders because they are supposed to . . . lead!

The Canaanites were oppressing Israel at the time of Deborah the judge. God commissioned Barak to lead ten thousand men into battle against them. Though hesitant at first, "Barak went down from Mount Tabor with ten thousand men following him" (Jud. 4:14). Barak led; the men under his command followed; and the Lord gave Barak and the Israelites total victory over the Canaanites.

After the period of the judges, Saul served as the first king of Israel. The Lord commanded him to "go and attack Amalek and utterly destroy all that they have" (1 Sam. 15:3). Saul handily defeated the Amalekites but failed to destroy all they had. Instead, he and his people spared the Amalekite king, Agag, along with the best of the livestock (15:8-9). When Samuel confronted him, Saul repeatedly shifted the blame: "The people spared the best of the sheep and oxen to sacrifice to the Lord . . . the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been destroyed, to sacrifice to the Lord" (15:15, 21).

Wait just a minute! Who's the king here? What is your job, Saul? Just doing whatever the people want isn't leading!

Good King Hezekiah reigned long after the time of Saul. Hezekiah's wicked father, Ahaz, had taken Judah down the dark path of idolatry and immorality. But Hezekiah was a leader! Rather than "go along and get along," He destroyed the Asherah poles, pagan altars, and other instruments of corrupt worship (2 Kings 18:4). The kingdom moved closer and closer to faithfulness to the Lord.

Are you a parent? Your job isn't to be your children's buddy, doing whatever makes them happy. Be a parent! Lead!

Are you a preacher? Your job isn't to tickle ears. Preach the truth in love! Lead!

Are you an elder? Your job isn't to do whatever makes the members happy (especially the heavy contributors). Tend the flock! Lead!

What are leaders supposed to do? That's right – lead!

Hymn: "You Never Mentioned Him To Me"

Prayer: Father, help us not to be men-pleasers, but leaders! In Jesus' name, Amen.