

## **What Does a Leader Look Like?**

### **Selected Scriptures**

#### **Scripture Reading**

##### **Acts 20:26 - 35**

26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, 27 for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. 28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. 29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. 32 And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. 33 I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. 34 You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. 35 In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

**Introduction:** Leadership: The Strong Link in the Chain

Week one - What does a leader look like?

Week two - What is the character of a leader?

Week three - How does leadership function?

Week four - What is the role of women in positions of leadership?

Illustration: A chain is only as strong as its weakest link but the leader must be the strongest link for the rest of the chain to depend on.

**Quote: "Everything Rises and Falls on Leadership" – Lee Roberson – Past President of Tennessee Temple University**

Reasons for speaking on leadership the next four weeks

**1. There is a dearth of leadership in our churches and in society**

- Recent election and Donald Trump
- Say what you want about Donald Trump but he is a true no nonsense leader

**2. There is a big need for Biblical leadership in the church and world today**

**3. I have never preached specifically on leadership** and what that means in the Church, the larger Body of Christ and what it means for our church

**4. Our church needs to raise up, equip, resource and develop new leaders and current leaders**

- I am encouraged by steps being made in the month of January
  - Missions Team
  - Children's Ministry Team
- We still have needs to fill and changes to be made as to how we function in leadership
  - Senior's Ministry
  - Outreach Ministry
  - More deacons, deaconesses, and elders
  - Help in the Children's ministry
  - Awana workers

**Purpose: Every Christ follower needs to know what a biblical leader looks like in order to follow the right leaders**

**Transition:** We don't have time to look in detail to these eight leaders. I could have listed more but we will fill in the blanks as we go and key in on four of these this morning.

**Moses**

- A leader who overcame insecurity

**Exodus 3:13**

**Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?"**

- Tell them I am that I am has sent you

## **Exodus 4:1**

**Then Moses answered, “But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, ‘The Lord did not appear to you.’”**

- The sign of the staff

## **Exodus 4:10**

**But Moses said to the Lord, “Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.”**

- Let Aaron your brother be your spokesperson
- Moses' became the great deliverer of the nation of Israel and led them to the brink of the Promised Land
- God will use us despite our deficiencies. He is looking for a willing heart.
  - He will be our strength and enable us

## **2 Corinthians 12: 7 - 10**

**So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

- A leader who developed great patience
  - The Ten Commandments and the Golden Calf

## **Deuteronomy 9:18 -19**

**18 Then I lay prostrate before the Lord as before, forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water, because of all the sin that you had committed, in doing what was evil in the sight of the Lord to provoke him to anger. 19 For I was afraid of the anger and hot**

displeasure that the Lord bore against you, so that he was ready to destroy you. But the Lord listened to me that time also.

- The ten spies who doubted God promises for going into the Promised Land

### Deuteronomy 9:25 - 26

25 “So I lay prostrate before the Lord for these forty days and forty nights, because the Lord had said he would destroy you. 26 And I prayed to the Lord, ‘O Lord God, do not destroy your people and your heritage, whom you have redeemed through your greatness, whom you have brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

- A leader must avoid becoming cynical
- A leader must be able to overcome discouragement
- A leader must keep His eyes on the Lord and not people

### Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? 2 My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. 3 He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. 4 Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. 5 The Lord is your keeper;

- A leader who was challenged to delegate

### Exodus 18:21-26

21 Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens. 22 And let them judge the people at all times. Every great matter they shall bring to you, but any small matter they shall decide themselves. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you. 23 If you do this, God will direct you, you will be able to endure, and all this people also will go to their place in peace.” 24 So Moses listened to the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said. 25 Moses chose able men out of all Israel and made them heads over the people, chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens. 26

**And they judged the people at all times. Any hard case they brought to Moses, but any small matter they decided themselves.**

- A leader who does not delegate will;
  - Limit the growth of his company and ministry. It will only be as big as he can personally micro manage
  - He loses the use of the potential of other gifted people
  - He will burn out

Transition: We go on to see that although Moses' was not privileged to enter the Promised Land, he had been mentoring Joshua all along the way. Joshua comes on the scene in transition of leadership after Moses' passes away. It is very interesting to read the book of Joshua, especially chapter one as God prepares Joshua to take over the leadership of over 2 million Jews and lead them into the Promised Land.

## **Joshua**

- A leader who learned how to transition leadership
- A leader who had courageous faith

Transition: I encourage you to read Joshua chapter one and how God instills courage and faith into Joshua who by the end of chapter one was instilling courage and faith in the people under his charge and care. Saul is a great example of what kind of leader NOT to be.

## **Saul**

- A leader who struggled with pride
- A leader who struggled with jealousy

Transition: Let us take a few moments to look at a great leader and a great book on leadership that is not often looked at for leadership principles.

## **Nehemiah**

- A leader who had vision to see the unseen
  - The Jews had been in captivity with a few Jews left behind to take care of the land and what little was left of the infrastructure of Jerusalem.
  - Cyrus the King of Persia decreed to Ezra that the Jewish people could go back to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple and

begin feasts and celebrations again. There was another wave of people returning after the events of the book of Esther.

- But the walls of protection still laid in ruins.
- Nehemiah was saddened at the news that was reported to him about the walls of Jerusalem.
- He prayed and fasted and asked his King if he would grant him permission to go back and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. The king granted him permission with his blessing
- The book of Nehemiah is a book written from a leader's perspective and gives great detail with principles that apply to leaders even today.
- I want to point out that Nehemiah returned and the first thing he did was gather information in preparation for the vision God had given him.

### **Nehemiah 2:11-12**

**11 So I went to Jerusalem and was there three days. 12 Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. And I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. There was no animal with me but the one on which I rode.**

- Nehemiah goes out and surveys the land and develops the vision with God's help and a few men.
- Then he tells the assembled Jews who are living there of the vision.

### **Nehemiah 2:17 – 18**

**17 Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer derision." 18 And I told them of the hand of my God that had been upon me for good, and also of the words that the king had spoken to me. And they said, "Let us rise up and build." So they strengthened their hands for the good work.**

- Notice Nehemiah's charge at the end of sharing the vision and the people's response. He was a leader who was a man of inspiration.
- A leader who was a man of inspiration

### **Nehemiah 5:14 – 19**

14 Moreover, from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year to the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes the king, twelve years, neither I nor my brothers ate the food allowance of the governor. 15 The former governors who were before me laid heavy burdens on the people and took from them for their daily ration forty shekels of silver. Even their servants lorded it over the people. But I did not do so, because of the fear of God. 16 I also persevered in the work on this wall, and we acquired no land, and all my servants were gathered there for the work. 17 Moreover, there were at my table 150 men, Jews and officials, besides those who came to us from the nations that were around us. 18 Now what was prepared at my expense for each day was one ox and six choice sheep and birds, and every ten days all kinds of wine in abundance. Yet for all this I did not demand the food allowance of the governor, because the service was too heavy on this people. 19 Remember for my good, O my God, all that I have done for this people.

- He was a humble leader who worked beside the people, ate with the people and lived like the common people giving up his benefits and privileges, even sharing food with the people.

Illustration: I witnessed a living miracle as I stood on the land that would one day be the campus of LU in the cold and in the snow. From a barn and a farmhouse to over 1 Billion dollars in assets as reported in 2012 and over 1 Billion dollars in their endowment fund. It is the largest evangelical Christian university in the world in less than 43 years.

### **Picture of Jerry Falwell**

### **Picture of Liberty University**

Transition: Next we will just touch on a couple of key points regarding David's leadership. God says that even after his sin and his family suffered tremendous consequences, God called David a man after God's heart. There is hope for broken leaders in the story of David.

### **David**

- A leader who was highly respected
  - Broke through the enemy lines to respond to David's request for water.

- Then David poured out the water because if his men did not have enough water to drink, he would not drink the water they gave him.
- His soldiers respected and honored David so much that they would sacrifice their lives so the king could have a drink of water.
- A leader who loved his people
  - Just read the Psalms. – 133 – it is good for men to dwell together in unity.
  - He talked about worshiping with his close friends
  - He loved his soldiers and treated them with kindness, dignity and respect.

Transition: Then there is Solomon who many consider the wisest king of all time.

### **Solomon**

- A leader who was given wisdom and wealth
- A leader who was led astray by his wisdom and wealth

Transition: Of course the greatest leader of all was Jesus.

### **Jesus**

- A leader who displayed a servants' attitude

### **John 13: 1-5**

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. 2 During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, 4 rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. 5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

- Notice the humility and the setting of an example.



- We need to emulate Jesus by daily picking up the towel of a servant as we head out our door each day to encounter the world of people around us.
- He was the epitome of a servant leader
- A leader who mentored His friends

### **John 15:14 -16**

**14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.**

- Jesus had spent night and day for approximately three years pouring into their lives through teaching.
- Equipping them
- Sending them out to do ministry and debriefing with them and helping them learn from their mistakes
- He lived life on life with them
- Now as Jesus earthly ministry is coming to a close, because His ministry in heaven is different now, interceding for all of us at the right hand of God.
- He says you are no longer servants, but now I call you friends. Partners with Jesus in God's kingdom work.
- Can you grasp that?? Can you get your brain around that?
- What an amazing leader!!!

Transition: Lastly today, we will just mention Paul and two characteristics of his personality and leadership.

### **Paul**

- A leader who had a pioneering spirit
  - Paul ran toward trouble and problems in order to win people to Christ and plant churches.
  - He was all in on His commitment to Christ and fulfill his mission and purpose God had made him to be and do.

- A leader who invested in other's life

## **2 Timothy 2:2**

**And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also**

- Paul amplified the Great Commission. He explained it and made it practical and simple to understand.
- He was developing the most important chain of the Christian life.
- Passing down the faith to the next generation
- Discipling people to make disciples who make disciples.
- He did that by investing in Barnabas, Silas, Timothy, Epaphroditus, and Romans 16 – the list of people.

Transition: We can learn so much from the Bible and its characters about leadership. I would encourage you sometime to do a study on the leaders in the Bible and learn the good and bad lessons from them as you lead others yourself. One thing about the Bible it shows us the warts and the beauty of people. One thing we see is that God will use men even when they fail and even when they sin. He will forgive them and use them again and again.

**Key Thought: Leaders learn from their mistakes and strengthen their strengths.**

Leadership must be the strongest chain in the link in order for the organization to make a difference.

### **Illustration of Peter**

- **Jesus tells Peter that he will deny him three times before the rooster crows tomorrow. Peter says it will never happen**
- **Charcoal fire – Peter denies him three times and the rooster crows and Peter leaves weeping bitterly because of his denial of Jesus**
- **Fast forward to John 21. Jesus is cooking breakfast on a charcoal fire and invites Peter to join Him and He forgives Peter and challenges Him to become the leader that He knew the early church would need.**

- God never gives up on preparing and equipping people to be the leaders He wants them to be.

### **Three Questions to Ponder this Week**

- 1. Who in your life can you point to who was a Biblical Leader in your life?**
- 2. What Qualities in a leader makes you want to follow them?**
- 3. What one quality can you take away that you want to emulate more this week?**

**Let's Pray**