

# Lead On: Godly Leadership in Your Journey with God

Godly leadership is not just about getting from point A to point B. It's about involving the Lord in every step of the way and seeing how He wants to be glorified as we journey toward our heavenly home. As you lead onward, lead upward - keeping God's plans in your head and heart so you can pass them down to those around you.

In Ezra chapter 8, we see Ezra's personal memoirs of his journey in 458 BC. He gathered people together with supplies and a letter from the king, preparing to launch out on a significant journey. But before setting out, he spent three days in fasting and prayer because he understood the magnitude of what lay ahead.

## What Does Godly Leadership Look Like?

There are six powerful lessons about leadership we can learn from Ezra's example:

### 1. Use Administrative Skills Wisely

Good leadership requires planning. Ezra checked supplies and people support to know what they needed before going forward. He didn't just "wing it." Poor planning often leads to poor results.

While there are times when circumstances are beyond our control and we must simply trust God and act, most situations benefit from thoughtful preparation. Use the administrative skills God has given you to glorify His name, positively impact others, and successfully move forward.

### 2. Press Forward Through Obstacles

When Ezra did a roll call, he discovered there were no Levites in the group. This was a significant problem since they were going back to build and serve in the temple, and Levites were specifically called by God for this purpose.

Why were the Levites reluctant to go? They had grown comfortable in Babylon. They had lost sight of their purpose and calling. The three killers of faith steps are comfort, convenience, and cost. When we become self-sufficient, our faith becomes stagnant.

Instead of giving up, Ezra sent representatives to recruit Levites. He knew God's plan and intention and pressed forward to see it accomplished. Good leadership knows what God wants and doesn't back down when facing obstacles.

### 3. Don't Procrastinate with Problems

Most of us don't like conflict or uncomfortable situations. But good leadership means dealing with problems head-on rather than postponing them until they become full crises.

Ezra recognized the dangers of their 900-mile, four-month journey and addressed them directly through fasting and prayer. He understood that straight paths are not always smooth, but with God's guidance, they could navigate whatever challenges arose.

### 4. Acknowledge Your Need for God's Help

At major crossroads, don't be afraid to admit you need God's help. There's no spiritual GPS that guarantees you have it all figured out. You need the Word of God and the Spirit of God to make it through life.

Ezra chose not to request a military escort from the king, despite carrying millions of dollars worth of supplies. Why? Because he had confidently told the king that "the hand of our God is upon all those for good who seek Him." Instead, he and his people fasted, prayed, and trusted God for protection.

### **5. Be Responsible with What You Have**

Ezra carefully weighed out valuable articles and entrusted them to twelve leaders, making them accountable for safely delivering these treasures to Jerusalem. He practiced wise stewardship alongside good leadership.

Don't compare your responsibilities to others or focus on what you don't have. Instead, be faithful with what God has put into your hands. He has given you gifts and resources to use for His glory. On judgment day, you'll give an account for how you stewarded these gifts.

### **6. Finish Well**

Good leadership isn't content to just barely make it to the destination. Ezra and his people arrived in Jerusalem with everything intact - their witness (integrity), worship (gratitude), and work (completing their mission) all honored God.

We live in a world that looks for shortcuts, but many believers don't finish well because of sin and stumbles. Set in your heart, like Paul did, to finish the race God has put before you. Don't just limp across the finish line - run into the arms of Jesus, hearing those beautiful words: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

## **Life Application**

This week, consider where God has placed you in a leadership role - whether in your family, workplace, ministry, or simply in your own spiritual journey. Ask yourself:

1. Am I involving God in every step of my journey, or am I trying to get from point A to point B on my own?
2. What obstacles am I facing that require me to press forward rather than give up?
3. Am I procrastinating on addressing any problems that need my attention?
4. In what areas do I need to acknowledge my dependence on God rather than relying on my own strength?
5. What gifts and resources has God entrusted to me, and am I being a faithful steward of them?
6. What would it look like for me to finish well in my current season?

Challenge yourself to lead upward by keeping God's plans in your head and heart this week. Take time to fast and pray about a significant decision or challenge you're facing. Remember that God takes full responsibility for lives fully committed to Him. Trust Him to guide and protect you every step of the way.