

BUILDING GOD'S HOUSE Part - XIV Leadership



Many countries around the world celebrate a day where they received their independence from another country or group of countries. This month is that time for the country I write you from. Even though we needed our independence we still needed a system of government with rules and laws and people who are willing to devote time and energy to become leaders within that system. The Lord set up different leadership within different timeframes for Israel and later the church. While the church's focus is usually on fivefold ministry as its leadership we sometimes forget the many different ways people are leaders without having a call to one of the five gifts mentioned within the framework of the Ephesians 4 leadership. I thought to ask someone who runs a larger ministry to write this article this month. Finding a person with some

time on their hands to do so I thought was going to be the bigger challenge. So I prayed about it and asked the Lord who and how. There are times in my life when waiting for an answer on an issue took weeks and times when the Lord answered right away. The next day He just popped a sermon in my head that I had totally forgotten about. It was actually the first time I preached to a crowd numbering 50 or more. It was a woman's luncheon held 20 or more years ago. The gist of the sermon was what God valued as success as opposed to what we as humans value. As I was pondering who I was going to ask to write this month and what I would write if I was going to write, that's when this forgotten sermon popped into my head. As I was trying to remember this experience, that's when it hit me. Isn't that what we think about when we first mention a discussion about leadership---what makes a successful leader? We may not teach it that way, but that's what many are thinking. And that's when it dawned on me. God was trying to remind me of what He thought made a good leader.

There's nothing wrong with humans looking for good leaders and developing ideas and patterns of behavior that portray that. But what makes a good leader for people isn't always what makes a good leader in the eyes of God. Quite often we confuse the two and quite often they are connected. What I mean is God picks a person that really doesn't work well for everybody. Think about Moses and Job; Esther and Daniel. Not everyone was tickled pink about Moses. Job was okay until he got those unfortunate boils. Esther was hidden away, expected to go away quietly---and Daniel, well poor Daniel made the untimely mistake of actually praying to Yahweh. The thanks he received from the other leaders and people around him was a trip to the lions' den (in those days there were no bars, glass or

fences in place for your viewing convenience!!!). But think of how different the whole world would have turned out if God didn't pick those people as leaders to their own world and different situations. History actually would have changed.

What makes us successful in God's eyes is not how big, how fast or how many. It's obedience to His word, the faith to move on it and the love and reverential fear of the Almighty to turn to Him in each and every situation and wait on Him to answer. There are so many different types of leaders. There are leaders in business, in government, in families and within all different types of religious groups. Comparing apples and oranges is not fair. The faithful mother of one is as much a success in the eyes of the Lord as the leader over one million. Yet their jobs and management style is going to be totally different by design and necessity. For me personally I always look for that undeniable evidence that somebody has been with Jesus. I need to see that the Lord has taken someone through the experiences and lessons of His death, burial and resurrection. It's not just that they went through tough experiences, but that the Lord is satisfied that their character has been resurrected in Christ and bears the marks of His suffering. If this has not been done, they will always be seeking their own way and not be willing to be challenged by God and His way. Whether the person is a leader in business or the playground, these attributes are important for the stability and growth of others around them.

I sense the Lord lead me to two psalms this month as we are closing the subject of building God's house. They are Psalm 127 and 128. We've been on the subject of building God's house for over 14 months, our longest study since we started this site. Here are the two

psalms rewritten in the King James Version: "Psalm 127: A Song of degrees for Solomon. Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it; except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so He giveth His beloved sleep. Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is His reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate. Psalm 128: A Song of degrees. Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord; that walketh in His ways. For thou shalt eat the labor of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee. Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table. Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the Lord. The Lord shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life. Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel."

Before we look at some specifics with these psalms I would like to mention a point the Lord made with me when I asked Him a question some of you may ask when reading these psalms and thinking about them in relation to leadership. When we read them as a whole I wondered what about people with no children or only one or two. When I turned to the Lord with this question He gave me one example: JESUS. I started to realize that in the natural Jesus had no children and no wife, but that word made flesh, Christ, has reproduced billions over the last two millennia and He is continuing to reproduce. As we look at these two psalms we realize that they are worship songs, one it is said is specifically dedicated by King Solomon, a prosperous leader

in Israel during his timeframe. It is obvious to me that in order to be a leader, God has to call you and it is God that has to keep you, whether it is over a small family house, church or governmental city. If you're going to fret and worry about it constantly, you do not trust the Lord. Work has to be done, watchmen must do their jobs and you've got to get up early and earn your bread, but when you put your head down to sleep at night there is a trust in His love and ability to keep you and what He has told you to do. That faith gives you sound sleep. The Lord gives you the reproductive capability to expand the people around you. They eventually become leaders; even quashing the arguments of enemies (see verse 5) and stopping their attacks at the borders (another understanding of gates). In verse one of Psalm 128 there is a special blessing bestowed upon those that fear the Lord by honoring Him in doing things His way and not their own way. The blessing extends to reaping from your labor and having an emotional security and stability around you. I wondered about verse 3, whether it is literal family or spiritual and I believe both would fit the description if we follow Jesus' example. Verse 5 carries a special blessing for Israel and I believe that that is appropriate and should be taken to mean the literal place. But I am also reminded of the blessing that Paul talks about for the areas that we as Christians individually reside in all around the world when we honor the Lord where we live by praying for the earthly leadership there (1 Timothy 2:1-4; Romans 13:1-7).

This month I desired to keep it simple because of the different responsibilities of so many different types of leaders. I felt that what made a leader was what made sense with the Lord and not necessarily what always makes sense to us. One of the nicest things you can do is encourage

those in leadership around you, whether it is your wife or husband or someone else---and align yourself with people that will speak the truth to you of what makes the Lord happy. As with Daniel, it may not make everyone else happy, but the Lord will eventually bless you and raise you up to His standards of peace and security in leadership. Log on next month for more.....

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