

JESUS - THE PERFECT LEADER

February 2022

Leadership is important because it has a major influence on the course of individuals, families, homes, churches, schools, governments, courts and nations etc. The world today is living in moral decay partly because of the lack of good leaders. Recently I read through the book of Judges in the Bible and was sobered by the depths of degradation that comes to a nation that is leaderless or fails to follow God's leadership. The final chapters end with chaos and confusion: in their religious life (chapters 17-18), in their moral life (chap. 19) and in their political life (chap. 21)

Judges, a book of failure. All around idolatry and wickedness abound. God's judgments and his mercy too are shown. Midian's might by Gideon overthrown.
- author unknown

The nation of Israel did evil as **everyone did what was right in his own eyes**. During those first 300 years in the promised land, Israel went through seven cycles of apostasy and had seven times of deliverance. It followed this pattern:

Sin--> Slavery--> Supplication--> Salvation--> Serenity--> Sin-->Slavery etc.

Israel failed to obey God and to drive out enemies who brought idolatry and immorality into their families and culture. God used these enemies to **teach warfare** to Israel.
- Judges 3:1-2. They finally cried out to God and He sent Judges (Deliverers) to free them from their slavery and oppression. Throughout the 300 years, Israel had 200 years of peace and security, it was when they listened to God and had good leaders.

When I think of some political, government, business and media leaders around the world; certain negative words come to mind: corrupt, greedy, dishonest, hypocritical, tyrannical, compromisers, immoral, inept bungling bureaucrats, puppets, godless, globalists, devious, perverted, lawless, cowards, laws for thee and not for me etc. Under these leaders there are common effects in the world around us: crime, fraud, bribery, blackmail, violence, instability, perversion, immorality, deception, accusation, chaos, centralized power, fear, hopelessness, dependency, injustice, debt, disease etc.

The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

- Psalm 9:17

Just as in the book of Judges, **God has raised up some good leaders** today who respect God, truth, laws, righteousness, justice, morality, honesty, freedom etc. They are God's freedom fighters and truth seekers, who are strong and courageous, despite the attacks of the evil forces and voices around them. Let's pray that God would continue to raise up deliverers to restore our societies back to God. Take note of those who are faithful to the purposes and causes of God and pray for them. No matter how good we think they are there is **one word that cannot be used for any leaders in the world**,

PERFECT

Jesus Christ is the only leader in history who is perfect. All other leaders have their faults and weak points. Jesus has none. Some leaders start out well and then detour into distractions, deception, disgrace or even depravity, which causes great disappointment in their followers. There are some good examples of leaders who have good character but they still are not perfect in their nature nor are they always led by the Holy Spirit. Jesus is different, as He was always led by the Holy Spirit and demonstrated the pure nature of God in his thoughts, motives and actions. He stands unique among all leaders in history. He never needs to change, for He is perfect.

Remember your leaders who spoke the Word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. - Hebrews 13:7-8 NIV

Three Main Ingredients of Good Leadership

1. *Good Character*
2. *Good Capacity / Capability*
3. *Good Cause*

There are some good leaders who have all these ingredients to some extent, but only Jesus had all three in perfection. History is full of leaders who were skilled and had a good cause but what some leaders gain through their abilities, they lose through their lack of character. Many evangelists and pastors have failed in this area.

In February of 1990 I went to Kenya to hold evangelism crusades and also teach the pastors on several subjects including leadership. Before I went there, God had led me to Genesis chapters 1 & 2 to study the leadership qualities of God himself, since He is the greatest leader of all time. (we will explore those insights at a later time)

A CHRISTIAN LEADER DEFINED

Leadership is a dynamic process in which a man or woman with God-given capacity influences a specific group of God's people towards his purposes for the group. - Dr. Robert Clinton

Leadership is the capacity to influence others through inspiration, motivated by passion, generated by vision, produced by a conviction, ignited by a purpose. - Dr. Myles Munroe

1. **CHARACTER** - *The making of a leader, the internal conquest*

**For the kingdom of God consists of and is based on not talk, but power
- moral power and excellence of soul. - 1 Corinthians 4:20 AMP**

A Christian is something before he does something. - D. Martyn Lloyd Jones

Character is what a man is in the dark. - D.L. Moody

**Apart from character, ministry is only religious activity or even worse,
religious business. - Warren Wiersbe**

Before a leader leads others, they must learn to let God lead them. How can they ask others to follow them when they do not even follow God themselves. Leaders are not born, they are developed. Sure, some have greater capacity for being leaders, but God also looks for those who are willing to submit to his learning process.

Moses spent 40 years in Egypt in their leadership training program in the palace. Moses spent the next 40 years in the desert in God's character training course.. Moses was surrounded by sheep, sand, stars and solitude. God was preparing him to lead millions of God's people out of slavery and through the desert. Moses was learning more about God, himself and the desert. The longer the preparation time, usually indicates a more challenging task ahead. A leader must be tested much as a bridge is tested. A bridge that is going to carry more weight over it, needs to be capable of handling the pressure. So it is with a leader who will eventually be responsible for the lives of many people. If the leader falls or fails, this will adversely affect the faith and lives of many others. Except for Jesus, Moses is likely the greatest leader in the Bible. Imagine being one person leading millions of people into a dead end situation at the Red Sea and then later taking them through the desert with lack of sufficient food or water available! In his 40 years alone with God in the desert, Moses had learned discipline, humility, listening to God, faith and patience. He was ready to live it out as a leader of God's people, who would also need to live out some of the same things.

The Preparation of Jesus The Road to Maturity

Although Jesus never sinned, he grew up as a child and then as a young man. He was going through a process of maturity and development in spiritual and practical disciplines and responsibility. As a young child, it is written about Jesus in Nazareth:

**And the child grew and became strong, he was filled with wisdom,
and the grace of God was upon Him. - Luke 2:40 NIV**

Later at the age of 12, Jesus was at the temple in Jerusalem and amazed the religious leaders with his wisdom and knowledge. It was obvious that God had already graced him with wisdom and insight as he had spent years meditating on the Scriptures. A little later these words were said about Jesus when he returned back to Nazareth:

Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man- Luke 2:52 NIV

Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered, and once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him. - Hebrews 5:8-9 NIV

The growth and perfection of Jesus has more to do with reaching full maturity. The last part of verse 9 refers to Jesus fulfilling His role as our High Priest before God after his death, resurrection and ascension back to the Father on our behalf. Jesus was always fully God, pure in spirit and perfect in his nature and character.

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being..... - Hebrews 1:3a NIV

**'the exact representation and perfect imprint of His [Father's] essence.' AMP
'the perfect imprint and very image of [God's] nature.' - AMPC**

However, as a human, Jesus had to go through the maturing process in his soul (mind, emotions, will) and in his physical body. The soul and physical aspects relate to the next ingredient of a leader, the capacity and capability skills to be a leader. Jesus was a pure vessel fully submitted to God the Father and the Holy Spirit, thus he was fully available for the release of God's wisdom, love and power through his life.

All of self....none of God. Less of self...more of God. None of self....all of God.
- Smith Wigglesworth / England's Apostle of Faith

2. CAPACITY / CAPABILITY (Charismata / Grace gifts, Anointing from God)

A person can have a good character and yet not be qualified for a job due to his lack of capacity to grow into the capability needed to accomplish the task. I took piano lessons for 4 years and yet I could only reach a high level of mediocrity, as God did not give me much capacity in the music realm. When I arrived for my piano lesson, I overheard amazing piano skills from the person who had his lesson before me. Michael was a younger piano student than me, but his ability to play was light years ahead of me. It was almost embarrassing for me to play after hearing him. (A few years later he moved out west where he later won 1st place in a competition which included the whole southwest region of America.) Many years later, I heard this adage which has some real wisdom behind it. **DO MOST OF WHAT YOU DO BEST**

This resonates with the scriptures which say that God anoints, favors and empowers individuals for specific tasks.

Jabal was a **farmer** father of those who raise livestock. - Genesis 4:21

Jubal was a **musician** father of players of the harp and flute - Gen.4:21

Tubal- Cain, **metal worker** forged tools out of bronze and iron

Noah and sons, **carpenters** who built the massive ark - Genesis 6

Moses was an **anointed leader** over millions

Joshua was a **military leader**

Joseph and Daniel; **kingdom administrators**

Tell all the skilled men to whom I have given wisdom in such matters that they are to make garments for Aaron.....these are the garments they are to make: a breast piece, an ephod, a robe, a woven tunic, a turban and a sash. - Exodus 28:3-4

See I have chosen Bezalel.....I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts - to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship. - Exodus 31:2-5 NIV

He was also given the ability to teach others - 31:34

There is joy, passion, fulfillment and fruitfulness when we concentrate on what God has designed us to do. People inherit interests and aptitudes for various things from God and also from their predecessors. However, there are also acquired skills which can enhance this.

We will cover the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Life in the Spirit section on our website: jesusreigns.net In my own life, I can see how God has gradually brought me to this time in my life where he is using my grace gifts and acquired skills to fulfill God's cause of promoting the kingdom of God message. Here is part of God's process in my life, which I hope will cause you to reflect on how God has used key moments in your life to bring you to where you are in your life walk.

- * I grew up on a dairy farm, but I was more interested in books and scholarly knowledge rather than learning practical things.
- * During high school I took four years of Latin and one year of it in college. (I was influenced by a history teacher in the 7th grade who said Latin was a good way to improve your vocabulary) My Dad and one sister are good at numbers, but I have an interest in 'words' and doing research on various things and writing stuff in notebooks. (a trait I likely picked up from my mother)
- * In high school there were two courses available for typing. One was for one semester and the other one was for a whole school year (it was called a Regents course which included a test from New York State). I chose the latter and scored very well.
- * In 1982 I was in a ministry course at Christian Retreat in Florida. We had a course on writing and one day the teacher stopped the class and pointed his finger at me and spoke these words: 'You have it. You could write a book if you wanted to.'
- * Mid -1980's I borrowed a book from the Jamestown N.Y. public library called Rise To Conquer by Larry Poland. My eyes were opened to the subject of the Kingdom of God and its key importance. It is the reason I developed a kingdom mentality.
- * In 1992 in London, England I was asked to teach at a Bible School and later also to write several correspondence courses. Some of those courses are now being placed on our website.
- * June 2014 God downloaded two words to me: Write and Disciple (this occurred during the midst of the prayer revival that went on for a few years)
- * August 2014 God led me to start writing to encourage the prayer team to keep the fires of revival burning after I went to Florida in November. We have now sent out over 270 Prayer Agent Messages since then, based on the following theme:

W.E.D. (Write Encourage Disciple) to prepare the Bride of Christ for the Wedding!
(The Moravian Revival movement went on with day and night prayer for 100 years! It was based on the scripture of Leviticus 6:13, which said they were to keep the fire on the altar burning.

- * In the late 1980's I was reading my Bible where it read: '**We have different gifts, according to the grace given us**' - Romans 12:6. When I came to the following words, they jumped off the page at me: '**...if it is teaching, let him teach.**'

Preachers proclaim a message, sometimes with great enthusiasm and energy. **Teachers explain** a message with more detailed information, usually in a conversational way. (I realized several years before, that I was more of a teacher than a preacher.) The style of the speaker is not as important as the actual substance and truth of the message. It is the **truth of God's Word** that sets people free.

As I continued reading Romans 12, I came to the following verse about keeping spiritual fervor and zeal.

**Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor.
serving the Lord. - Romans 12:11 NIV**

Suddenly I realized that the secret to keeping my zeal was to use the gifts that God had graced me with. **I enjoyed teaching!** As time went on I saw that God also used me to **encourage others and also to prophesy.** - Romans 12:6-8

One time while teaching a class at the Bible School in London, the Lord prompted me to spontaneously give prophetic words to each student. I remember that I told one student that he was going to be a pastor to pastors. Such personal words from God through another can be very encouraging and significant.

These two different translations of Romans 12:11 give a little more insight:

**Never lag in zeal in earnest endeavor; be aglow and
burning with the Spirit, serving the Lord. - Romans 12:11 AMPC**

**Let us not allow slackness to spoil our work and let us keep
the fires of the Spirit burning, as we do our work for the Lord.
- Romans 12:11 J.B. Phillips**

The Romans 12 gifts listed are called 'motivational' gifts. The root word of motivation means 'move'. Motivation relates to inspiring people to act, to get moving! It is likely that there is one of those gifts that applies to you. Use it and enjoy your life.

3. CAUSE *The external conquest.* (A God given vision / goal from God)

It is important that the **internal conquest** (good character formation) has taken place before one undertakes a great cause. What a person gains through their gifts and abilities can be tarnished or lost through their failures in character.

While I was growing up, there was a greater awareness about the dangers of Communism. Billy Graham often used devoted communists as examples of what it means to be totally committed to a cause. One time Graham read a letter by a young communist who wrote a letter to his fiancee saying why he must break off their relationship, because he was committed to a greater cause. Here are a few of sentences from that letter;

'We are fanatics. Our lives are dominated by one great overshadowing factor, THE STRUGGLE FOR WORLD COMMUNISM.'

(for whole letter, Google: Billy Graham reads communist letter click on: Christ Demanded No Less / sermonindex.net)

E. Stanley Jones tells the story of his visit to Moscow many years ago. He watched as workers carried dirt up out of the ground for the building of a subway. They were chanting as they worked, and Jones inquired the meaning of their chant. He was told that they were chanting, **'We are building a new world'**.

These ditch diggers had a kingdom mentality. They believed that their actions were helping to build a new world. Should not Christians have a similar view for the sake of God's kingdom?

THE KINGDOM OF GOD MENTALITY FOR CHRISTIANS

An unshakeable commitment to the sovereignty of Jesus Christ and to the growing establishment of his invincible and perfect world order.

(The quote is the main theme of the excellent book, Rise To Conquer by Larry Poland) For finding old books that are out of print one can go to Alibris, which is often better priced than Amazon. Poland goes through each of those points in detail:

- * **Unshakeable commitment**
- * **The sovereignty of Jesus Christ**
- * **The growing establishment**
- * **Invincible perfect world order**

Jesus had a kingdom mentality. - Matthew 16:13-28

The kingdom of God was his main message and vision for earth's future.

He told us to 'seek first the kingdom of God'. Matthew 6:33

When I thought of a website a few years ago, I intended to call it: Born to Reign. However, when I finally started it in February 2021, somehow by God's providence, I was led to the name: jesusreigns.net

I am grateful for that, because the focus is on Jesus rather than on man. Our focus should be on God's cause and plan. In the **Kingdom Intro** section at our site: jesusreigns.net you will see the message on **God's Glorious Plan** which has more details on the subject.

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World leaders come and go, for their kingdoms are temporal and man-centered. They all have their short lived reigns on this earth. However, there is One to come who will reign forever. His arrival is preceded by the **Last Trumpet**.

The seventh angel sound his trumpet, and there were loud voices in voices in heaven which said: The kingdoms of the world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign for ever and ever. - Revelation 11:15

JESUS CHRIST WILL REIGN FOREVER

HE IS THE ONLY

PERFECT LEADER

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