

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 11.05.2023

WHAT GOD LOOKS FOR IN A LEADER – NUMBERS 27:12-23

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles or observations stood out to you from this week’s message? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Daniel says, “On Amazon, you’ll find 57,136 books with the word ‘leadership’ in the title. All of them in some way, shape, or form are trying to answer the same question: What makes a good leader? While everyone agrees that good leadership is essential to the success of any people, nation, or business, when it comes to which characteristic is most important in a leader, opinions vary greatly. Is it empathy or creativity or integrity or courage or the ability to cast vision or some combination of all the above? And how are leaders made anyways? Is it something your born with, or something you can learn? The questions on this topic abound. By any standard of measurement, I think you’d agree with me when I say that Moses was a great leader. For forty years, he faithfully led the nation of Israel through the wilderness and served as a mediator between the people and the Lord. Nevertheless, there comes a time in every leader’s life when they must step aside to make room for the next generation. That time had finally come for Moses.” Let’s get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most from the Pastor Daniel’s sermon?
2. What comes to mind when you think of the qualities of a good leader?

Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ NUMBERS 20:1-12 FOR BACKGROUND

The event described in this passage took place in the 40th year of the Israelites wandering in the desert. They had lacked water before (Ex. 17:1-7). Still, this was a serious matter; the people complained that they were going to die in the wilderness.

1. Read Numbers 20:1-5 and describe the situation?
2. Read Numbers 20:6-8 and have someone describe what the Lord told Moses and Aaron to do.
3. What did Moses do in this passage that caused the Lord to discipline Moses? Describe it...
4. In your opinion, why will anger towards other people often cause us to do things in our own way rather than in a way that brings glory to God?
5. According to Numbers 20:12, what is the discipline that God took upon Moses?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ NUMBERS 27:12-17

One reason that God was upset with Moses is because he had misrepresented Him to the people. God wasn’t upset with them for wanting water, but Moses gave them that impression.

“PROMISES” in 2023

1. What is the Lord communicating to Moses in vs 12-14? What is going to happen to Moses?
2. Read vs 15- 17 and describe what Moses is most concerned about? What does this tell you about the character of Moses?
3. What are your thoughts on James’ statement ***“Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.” {James 3:1}***? What does this mean for those who would teach and lead in the church?

When the Lord tells Moses that he’s about to be ‘gathered to his people’ that’s His way of telling him he’s about to die. Moses is 120 years old at this point. He spent the first 40 years of his life being raised in lap of luxury in the courts of Pharaoh in Egypt. He spent the next forty years of his life living in obscurity in the desert. All of this was preparation for the final chapter of Moses’ life, which was spent leading the nation of Israel to the brink of the Promised Land. As great as Moses was, he wasn’t going to get to be the one to lead them in.

4. In your opinion, do you think that God was too harsh on Moses? Why or why not?
5. How did God show His mercy to Moses before he died?
6. Why is it so important that we properly represent the Lord in our leadership?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ NUMBERS 27:18-23

1. What does this final section tell you about Moses’ character, describe it?
2. What are some of the character traits we should look for in a leader? (cc Prov. 22:1)
3. How does the role of shepherding sheep compare with that of Pastoring?
4. How do you think Moses felt when he heard that God selected Joshua to lead the people?
5. The Bible says that Joshua was a man in whom was the spirit of God, why is it so important that a leader is filled with God’s spirit and anointing?

Was Joshua gifted? Yes. Was he experienced? Absolutely. Was he capable. Yup. But those things aren’t what qualified him to lead in the Lord’s eyes. The thing that caused him to stand out was the fact that he was a man in whom the Spirit dwelt. Without the anointing of the Holy Spirit, all that other stuff didn’t matter. The same goes for any leader. Without the anointing, this church is just a country club, worship is just a concert, pastors are just motivational speakers, and sermons are nothing more than self-help talks. The Holy Spirit is the One who makes all the difference.

“PROMISES” in 2023

Applying God’s Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

You might be tempted to think a study like this doesn’t apply to you. You would be wrong. Not all of us are going to be commissioned by God to lead in the same ways as Joshua but all of us are called to lead in some way. There is a calling on your life. God might be calling you to lead in your home, or in your community, or in your family. The Lord’s hand is on you and His Spirit is in you. Seek Him in all things and surrender your heart to Him.

1. How can we prepare ourselves for the transitions and changes that God may have for us?
2. How can you begin to take steps to yield yourself to God’s call?
3. How can we cultivate a humble and submissive attitude towards God’s will and discipline?

PRAYER: Take time to encourage one another and pray that God will continue to reveal His will and His calling on each person’s life. God has called us to lead in our Homes and over our families. If the Lord is calling you to step up and lead, obey Him!

“When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?' Peter said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs' (John 21:15, ESV).