

## **Leadership is what the Church Needs Today**

### **Proverbs 20:25-30**

My brothers and sisters, as we look at this scripture today, we will see that there is a strong word from the Lord about the kind of leadership that the Church of God is in need of in the world today.

So as we look into this topic, we will also see that it is one of the most important topics in the God kingdom and we wonder about the abundance of or lack of strong leadership in God's Church today.

Some of us may have heard that there is a drain on leadership and some of us may not have heard about it at all. We also may have never talked about it in any detail, or know why this is one of the defining issues of such a called out or elected leadership.

My brothers and sisters, I would be the first to say that I don't know much about the different leadership in each church. But I do know a lot about leadership in general, as I have been studying it and its role for over fifty years have read about it and have trained many leaders for over forty years; I have been a leader too having led over five-thousand people for a period of five years, with a budget in the millions of dollars, and a staff of sixteen people.

But my brothers and sisters, the biggest reason I know something about leadership is my study of the Bible, because it is the greatest book ever written about leadership in the world.

The kind of leadership the church needs right now is the kind of leadership that God blesses, and the Bible says a lot about the kind of leadership that God blesses, but let us focus on three primary characteristics that God blesses and they are ; generosity, humility, and integrity.

1. My brothers and sisters, God blesses leaders who share generously. So generosity matters to God because it makes us like him. Everything you have is because of the goodness of God and his generosity. You would have nothing if it were not for the goodness of God. You can not say, I'm a good person and not be a generous person. The two go together, they are synonymous, my brothers and sisters, make no mistake about it, generosity is love in action, just ask Jesus, because we hear him saying that, "God loves a generous giver".

And Psalms 112:9 discusses generous leaders. "They give generously to those in need. So their good deeds will never be forgotten. They will have influence and honor." If you want to be a leader of influence and honor, you must learn the principle of generosity. It is something that God demands of us, and Jesus said it like this, "Much is required from those to whom much is given, for their responsibility is greater." (Luke 12:48b)

2. My brothers and sisters, God also blesses leaders who serve with humility. In the Book of St. Mark, Jesus gave us a whole new standard for leadership.

In St. *Mark 10:43*, Jesus said, “Whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant.” Jesus said you measure a leader’s effectiveness not by how many people serve him, but by how many people are served by him.

I truly do believe most leaders genuinely do start off wanting to make a difference with their lives, and that includes Church leaders. But slowly that service becomes serve us.

It can become how can I feather my nest? How do I consolidate my power? How do I get to stay in the gravy? How do I get the people to serve me instead of my serving them?

So, my brothers and sisters, why is humility important? The Bible says in James 4:6b-8a, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and he will draw near to you.”

We must learn that grace comes through humility and disgrace comes through pride. The fundamental problem with pride is that it makes everything all about us and not about God. It is the root of every other problem in our lives and it is the opposite of good leadership.

My brothers and sisters, the Bible is clear that God opposes the proud. That means every time a leader thinks he is “hot stuff,” That God opposes him, every time! And when God opposes a leader, he will lose the battle, every time! The Bible says be humble or you will stumble! I repeat, The Bible says be humble or you will stumble! This means that you will fall!

We need leaders in our Churches who are humble! We need leaders in our churches who are servants! We need leaders in our churches who will submit to the will of God. Will you do these things for God?

3. God blesses leaders who live with integrity. Because the Bible’s message and I paraphrase says, “Love and truth, form a good leader. So, sound leadership is found on loving integrity.” Proverbs 20:28, above all else, a leader needs his or her credibility. If you have no credibility, you have no trust.

If you have no trust, you have no leadership, so all leadership is built upon trust. If people trust you, they will follow you. It’s that simple, nothing more, nothing less.

But preacher, where do leaders get that trust from? Well my brothers and sisters, all leadership comes from integrity. In olden days all of our leaders were known for their

integrity, and we talk about the integrity of such as Moses, Joshua and many more. How they allowed God to lead and they followed his leadership.

But, my brothers and sisters, today many leaders are much more interested in their image than in integrity. Image is what people think that you are, but character is what you really are. Because character really is what you are in the dark when no one can see you. It is when you want to do right and do, regardless of the outcome.

I have heard some people say that it's ok and does not matter what a leader does in private. But let me tell you it does matter what a leader does in private, if you want God's blessings upon your life, you better let your light so shine that men will see it and glorify the Father in Heaven.

My brothers and sisters, what you do in private always affects your public life, and in fact that is the meaning of integrity, when your public and private life is the same, when you say what you mean and mean what you say that is integrity.

It does not mean perfection by no means, because no one is perfect, but Our Savior Jesus Christ and God has ever used a perfect person but him. God only uses imperfect people; you do not have to be perfect to have integrity. All you have to be is honest, just ask Adam and Eve about it and they will have a story to tell.

As I close let me tell you what we need today in God's kingdom Church my brothers and sisters. Jesus said, "Upon this rock, I build my Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

We don't need more visionaries in the Churches; the way is already laid out by Jesus, We don't need more smart leaders, because Jesus is the smartest there is we don't need more leaders who are more interested in image than serving God. We don't need any more of those with me first and then you mentality. We don't need leaders with my way or the highway attitude either, No! My brothers and sisters, we don't need any more of this kind.

Well what do we need preacher; I'm glad that you asked. What we do need are leaders who put God first, leaders who have generosity, leaders who have humility, and leaders who have integrity. Yes! That is what God is working on today, leaders who will do his work because they love him enough to be his servant.

Yes! We need leaders who will take up their crosses and follow Jesus, leaders who will go all of the way for him.

YES! We need leadership who can be trusted, leadership with character, and leadership with integrity. We need leadership who understands that, "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord," and "like the rivers of water; He turns it when ever He wishes."

Many successful leaders remember this and therefore know the difference between being in charge and being in control. Church we kid ourselves if we think that we are in control.

We may have charge of a group, but the best we can do is tried to remain under control. Because God is the “Ultimate Leader” and He is in control.

My brothers and sisters, it has been rightly said, we don’t know what the future holds, but we do know the one who holds the future.

The church needs strong Bible learned leadership not those who want to make excuses, not those want to follow on their terms. God wants those who are willing to go all of the way, like Jesus did when it came time to surrender his all to God.

Are you willing to give your all to God and be a strong Bible learned leader, who will follow him all of the way, a leader who will follow the Savior, whom God has placed in charge, from the pulpit to the pew.