

The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

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BEING A GREAT LEADER OF GOD

Larry R. Ping II

Whatever the worlds' troubles currently are, much of it can be attributed to a lack of true, genuine leadership. This is generally true, meaning leadership in the home, leadership in the Church and leadership in the world. Two of God's greatest leaders (and certainly among the greatest leaders of all time) were Moses and Joshua. Moses had successfully led the children of Israel through the wilderness. Some estimates put the population around upwards of three million people. However, Joshua 1:2 reads, “*Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.*”

It was now up to Joshua to assume the reins of leadership. Notice God's words of encouragement to the new leader.

“*Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an*

inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success” (Josh. 1:6-8). Take notice of these attributes of great leaders.

1) Great Leaders Are Strong And Courageous.

Great leaders make the right decisions, even though there may be those who disagree with them, sometimes vigorously. David, a great leader as well, penned “*Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye*

that hope in the LORD” (Psa. 31:24).

2) Great Leaders

Follow The Law. And of this fact there is no question. Great leaders realize they are not “law-givers.” Rather, they are “law-followers” and “law-enforcers.” They realize there is no room for deviation from God's Law (Rev. 22:18-19). This is true of fathers, this is true of elders, this is true of world leaders. When departure from God's Law occurs, trouble is sure to follow. Great leaders always ask, “*what saith the scripture*” (Rom. 4:3)?

3) Great Leaders Are

Humble. Even though the “*LORD magnified Joshua in the sight of all Israel*” (Josh. 4:14), Joshua was humble enough to follow the directive to “*Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy*” (Josh. 5:15). There is no room for puffed-up, prideful leaders (Jam. 4:6). What kind of leader are you?

ACTS 16 LESSONS

Larry R. Ping II

Acts 16 is a truly fantastic section of Scripture. Within its boundaries are multiple lessons we can learn, and make application of in our lives this very day. Will you consider these with me?

1) Good People Come From All Walks Of Life.

When Paul came to Lystra, he met a fellow by the name of “Timotheus” who was the “son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek” (Acts 16:2). Because he was “mixed” so to speak, many would ascribe no value to him. Paul took the time to realize Timothy “was well reported of by the brethren” and would have him “go forth with” him (Acts 16:2-3). Timothy would go on, of course, to be a tremendous help to Paul and soldier for God. May we always recall every person possesses a soul and is most worthy of our attention.

2) Never Put Off A Teaching Moment. When Paul received what is commonly referred to as the “Macedonian Call,” (Acts 16:9) Luke records

“immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them” (Acts 16:10). Paul did not dawdle. He did not put off what most assuredly would be a difficult trip to later. When we are presented with a teaching opportunity, may we with speed and vigor take advantage of it.

3) Do Not Be Afraid To Teach In Odd Places.

When Paul’s party arrived in Philippi, they “went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither” (Acts 16:13). Paul went to those who needed teaching. Sometimes, they may come to us, but not often. May we be ready, willing, and able to go to the lost and teach.

4) Realize Money Is A Deciding Factor For Many.

This is a sad, but true fact. When a woman was healed of her possession, “her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone” (Acts 16:19). Their one and only concern was their

financial gain. Many today are the same. They have fallen in love with money. Paul warned, “For the love of money is the root of all evil” (I Tim. 6:10). Be not discouraged when money causes others to fail to serve God. It will happen often. Stay the course!

5) Make The Best Out Of The Worst.

The men of the city had Paul and Silas imprisoned. Nevertheless, “at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them” (Acts 16:25). These men could have easily grumbled about their plight. Rather, they turned a very negative situation into a very positive one. What will we do when times turn tough?

6) Baptism Is Eternally Important.

I know this because the jailer, after having heard the Gospel, responded by being baptized “the same hour of the night” (Acts 16:33). If baptism was not for the purpose of sin remitting (Acts 3:28), the jailer could have waited until morning. But he didn’t! Why?

FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm