

BOOTCAMP

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SO YOU WANT TO BE LEADERSHIP OR PRIESTHOOD

Let us then begin by reading Matthew 20:25-28 and I Peter 5:2-3.

Matthew 20:25-28

25 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them.

26 Yet it shall not be so among you but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.

27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave -

28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

I Peter 5:2-3

2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly

3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

You see, leadership is about serving God and His people and seeing that the needs of the flock are met to the best God has provided. The priesthood must always be there for the family of God to protect physically and spiritually as a twenty-four

hour covering. Wolves for instance may come in, looking like little helpless sheep, but are possessed by the enemy and are sent in with the intention to devour, split up and separate the flock. Leadership is equipped by God to spot these ones, but they must be on the job and aware.

Acts 20:28-29

28 “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

29 “For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you.

Not only must leadership be on duty to protect, but to solve problems and direct God’s sheep. Do you get tired of listening to people complain and whine? At the end of the day, 90% of what leadership hears is negative and all about problems. They are not your problems, they are the problems of others, but God will solve them or give advice through the vessels He chooses as leadership. Servant, servant, servant.

WHY DO YOU WANT TO BE A LEADER

The fact of the matter is, if you really want to be in leadership, you probably will never be chosen. Sounds funny, but you see, leaders become leaders because they simply want to help with God’s work. “Let me help you with this”, “Can I help with that?”, “Let me do that for you”, are words you will hear frequently from the

mouth of those being fashioned for leadership. **They have a servant's heart.** They do whatever needs to be done, and mostly end up doing all the things others forget, or do not care, to do. True leadership just keeps giving and doing when others are too tired, too busy or don't have the time. When the elders see this quality in people they mentally mark that one as future leadership.

POWER AND AUTHORITY

There is power and authority in the higher echelon among the upper class of the world, but in God's leadership, this power and authority is given for one thing, to accomplish Kingdom interests. The authority God's leaders walk in is to be used against sickness, poverty, the enemies of God, etc. It is to benefit God's people not the leadership. The world teaches its leaders self worth, God teaches His leadership to think more highly of others than themselves.

Philippians 2:3

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

In fact, the only reason the Bible says God's leadership is to be obeyed, is because God watches over His people or shepherds the flock through them. It's not because they are of any great human importance, but because of who God is in them. Not only this, but as individual people God's leaders will be called before Him to give an account for the sheep, and then be judged as to how well they performed their duties. Concern and care must always be exercised along with love and

compassion. This does not sound like the world's executives, does it?

Here is Apostle Paul's Biblical advice to leadership in the making on the subject of how to handle the flock.

I Timothy 5:1-2

1 Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers,

2 older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity.

II Timothy 2:24-25

24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, (quarrelsome, mean natured leaders reproduce this in others. Also, we reap what we sow.)

25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth. (If leadership reprimands the sheep out of their own anger, they will cause the sheep to sin more as they retaliate.)

The heart of a shepherd should be to see God's people walking happy, with a clear conscience, according to truth and holiness as children of God. They must truly care when they ask someone if something is wrong and be prepared to help in the situation.

WALKING HOLY

One of the facts many that desire to be in leadership try to ignore is the degree of holiness God's representatives are required to walk in. If God gives you a place of importance in His Kingdom, He expects you to act according to His principles, morals and spiritual law. When family members mess up they hurt those closest to them, but when leadership fails to meet Kingdom requirements the whole ministry is affected and God's plans for it can be aborted. You don't want to stand before God on judgment day with this sin accounted to you, so leadership must walk blameless before Him.

Luke 12:48 explains it this way:

48 But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

In other words, the higher the call, greater is the degree of holiness that is required. And, I warn you, the friends you have in the world may not like you as much anymore, because you can't do the things they like to do. In fact, they may mock you to others, or even try to bring up your past to discredit you.

II Timothy 3:12 says:

12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

I Peter 4:3-4

3 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles (heathen) - when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

4 In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.

LEADERS MUST SET THE EXAMPLE

But, how can you be an example for others if you have issues yourself? Do you smoke? How can you help others that drink, overeat, or are addicted to drugs? All these problems are governed by the same spirit of bondage. Addiction is addiction, no matter what it is you are addicted to. Do you lose your temper? Then how could you possibly help someone trying to commit suicide? Murder, anger, rage and suicide are all one family of spirits! Remember our fight is not with flesh and blood, but with spirits. You must be the law over a spirit yourself before you have the anointing, or the approval of God, to defeat it in someone else's life.

Matthew 7:3-5

3 And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?

4 Or how can you say to your brother, "Let me remove the speck from your eye"; and look, a plank is in your own eye.

5 Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Leadership must, to the best of their ability, walk above reproach and become the law over their own issues. Spirits come in through sin. These evil ones will attach themselves to leaders that lead ungodly lives behind the scenes and destroy those entrusted to them. Again, Peter voices God's advice to shepherds.

I Peter 5:8

8 **Be sober, be vigilant because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.**

Notice, "roaring lion". The devil mostly comes in trying to appear Godly, like the lion of Judah, and quoting scripture. Our only defense is holiness, so the enemy has no legal right or place in us or the sheep in our charge.

NO APPEARANCE OF EVIL

Leadership cannot have the slightest appearance of sin for fear of stumbling one of God's sheep. If those in leadership even borderline do something wrong, believe me, the enemy will be there to push them over the edge and see to it that someone finds out that will be injured by it. Leadership must speak Godly, dress Godly and react Godly in all situations at all times. Here are some hard scriptures that address this weakness.

Matthew 7:21-23

21 **Not everyone who says to Me, "Lord, Lord," shall enter the kingdom of**

heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in your name, and done many wonders in Your name?”

23 And then I will declare to them, “I never knew you; depart from Me, (here is why) you who practice lawlessness!”

Mark 9:42

42 But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea. (It would be better to drown!)

Being placed in any position of leadership or priesthood means that you would be a part of Mount Zion, God’s spiritual mountain that He governs from. You would have a major responsibility to see to it that the anointing on you and of those you associate with does **not** bring harm, or in any way negatively affect the others who form the mountain. A pure atmosphere must be maintained as God releases His truth from the mountain and it must not be filtered through the enemy. You as priesthood or leadership will be called to keep Mount Zion pure and holy. This means you must be humble enough to see your mistakes, accept rebuke from elders, and constantly walk in repentance so as to not taint the mountain. You cannot operate in anger, unforgiveness or obscenity for instance. There is no room for corrupt language or any of these emotions in God’s Kingdom.

Ephesians 4:29-31

29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

Ephesians 5:4

4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

Leadership must monitor what they watch on T.V. What kind of videos to watch, as well as what is on their computers? They cannot play the worldly games on them etc. Understand that leadership cannot be caught up in any worldly thinking or worldly situations, because their reactions, when caught off guard, will not be Godly and again, it brings this filth into God's mountain where the stream of His knowledge flows from. It's up to those in leadership to see that it is kept pure and clean, for it feeds the nations. Here is the Word of God on the matter.

Matthew 12:35-37

35 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.

36 But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment (so we better not go behind people's backs

accusing them or talking lies about them or become angry and curse them).

37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

So the heart of those in priesthood must be filled with the things of God. This is another reason Sion must be kept holy. New sheep and those in New Jerusalem will make mistakes and blunders, some intentionally and others unintentionally, and this will be dealt with **in** New Jerusalem, since this is the place assigned and designated by God to be shaped, molded, trained and corrected.

Isaiah 66:12-13

12 For thus says the LORD: “Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream. Then you shall feed (or be fed truth); on her sides shall you be carried (like a child the mother holds till it is old enough to walk on its own), And be dandled on her knees.

13 As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; and you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.”

But, these same mistakes, if made by priesthood or leadership will cause Mount Zion to be unclean, and could result in the individual being permanently removed from ministry and possibly cause them to never be accepted again. Forgiven yes, if they repented, but doubtful if they could ever be trusted with people’s souls as we reproduce ourselves in others. God lives through this mountain to rule, guide, and protect His people.

Joel 3:16-17

16 The LORD also will roar from Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; the heavens and earth will shake; but **the LORD will be a shelter for His people**, and a **strength of the children of Israel**.

17 So you shall know that I am the LORD your God, dwelling in Zion **My holy mountain**. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, and no aliens shall ever pass through her again (even Jerusalem will be holy in the end).

APPOINTED NOT HIRED

All positions of leadership or priesthood are God appointed, they are not man-made or man selected. You are not chosen because of your looks, personality, talents or gifting. These are things man looks at. God looks for Godly maturity. He looks for true servants willing to give of themselves. When God is pleased, He places an anointing on a person that will reproduce and bear fruit in others. As the elder leadership sees good fruit being produced in others, they are given a place in ministry.

There is no ladder formation, meaning one cannot "achieve" a higher or different position than that which God has chosen for them. The God-given desires, talents, and gifting placed within each individual vessel is an outward sign or indication of what God wants to do through a person, but we don't need to push or shove ourselves to the front to be seen as in the world. God will advance and appoint us to ministry as our gifting produces fruit or we mature.

Proverbs 18:16

16 A man's gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men.

Our calling was determined before the foundation of the earth but we still can't do enough good works to begin our ministry. It will happen when the fruits are evident of our maturity and God gets ready.

II Timothy 1:9

9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.

If our heart is to serve, we can be absolutely confident He will use us however.

Philippians 1:6

6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Ephesians 2:10

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

So you see, even though God may put you in ministry, and place you in the top of His mountain, He will never stop training, teaching, shaping and molding. Again, this is another reason His leaders must be humble, pliable, and quick to change

when necessary.

So in closing, leadership, through the Holy Spirit, develops, molds and shapes, and supervises the building of the Body of Christ. Therefore prospective leadership cannot be like the world, liars, cheats, drunks and sexually immoral. To be a viable citizen of Sion they must talk like a child of God, be ready to fight the enemy as a true warrior, set the example for others to follow and walk always in love towards the sheep. Anything less is not acceptable to the Lord. Man may accept and even hire you with bad habits and attitudes, but God will reject you even though a volunteer. Many are called, but few are actually chosen.