



2016: Week 10

Sunday, March 6th 2016

"The Importance of Character in Leadership"

Ephesians 5:3-4

"But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving." (NIV)

On Sunday, John preached from Numbers 27. In this passage Moses recognized that his time as a leader in Israel was coming to a close and Israel was in need of his successor. In this passage Moses requests of God, "May the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation" (Numbers 27:16, NASB). Moses asked the Lord to provide a new leader who would lead Israel unselfishly as a good shepherd.

1. READ Numbers 27:12-23

- What does Moses' request for a successor reveal about his character?

 - What is the description given for Joshua in this passage (hint: it's in verse 18)? What qualities stem from being one "in whom is the Spirit"?
2. As our country is preparing to elect a new President, it is most appropriate to consider the importance of character in leadership. The character qualities within a leader impact his/her decisions, and his/her decisions can have a big impact on others' lives (whether good or bad). There is a ripple effect that stems from character.
- In the sermon John listed several character qualities for a godly leader:
*filled with the Spirit submissive to the Lord impartial as a judge dependent upon the Lord
devoted to the Lord without a love of money devoted to Scripture strong & courageous.*
 - Although some of these qualities may not directly apply to an unbeliever, all of these qualities are consistent with New Testament teachings pertaining to the lifestyle and attitudes of a believer. Which character qualities do you feel like God has helped you develop already? Which ones do you need more of God's help in developing?
3. John Maxwell once said, "Leadership is influence." By that definition, if you are a follower of Jesus Christ you are a leader— whether you feel like it or not. Jesus said that we are "salt and light", specifically that we are to *influence* others around us, so that others may "see [our] good works and glorify [our] Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:13-16). Ephesians 5:3-4 reminds us of the importance of high character within the family of God. We will influence those around us by the way that we speak to them, listen to them, care for them, forgive them, serve them, and treat them with kindness.
- **Your faith in Christ makes you a reflection of Christ.** What can you do today that will help you be a better reflection of Christ?
 - How might your influence upon others for Christ be related to your own ability of *trusting, submitting, and committing* to Him?

FAMILY PRAYER: Thank the Lord for giving you the opportunity to study God's Word together as a family. Pray for the leaders within our nation and the ones whom the Lord will soon appoint. Pray for their character development. Ask the Lord to help these leaders use their influence in ways that are honest, right, and just. Ask for the Lord to work on your own heart in developing character qualities that give Him glory.