

A LEADERSHIP CRISIS

Lesson 5

I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. God Wants His People to Follow Leaders.
 - 1. Examples in the OT: Moses (Ex. 32:34) and Joshua (Num. 27:17).
 - 2. Examples in the NT: Jesus (Jn. 10:3) and Paul (1 Cor. 11:1; Phil. 4:9; 2 Tim. 3:9).
- B. There Is a Leadership Crisis Among the Lord's People.
 - 1. It is popular today for "management systems" to replace individual leadership.
 - 2. "Take me to your leader." "Follow the leader." Where will we go? Do we have one?
 - 3. The growth and success of a local church is dependent upon its leadership, not the size of its treasury, membership, or building facilities.
 - 4. The leadership principles outlined in this lesson can apply to the general individual leadership qualities needed in both men and women to live their life as a Christian. However, when it comes to leadership in the local church, we understand from the NT, that particular leadership role is given to men (preachers, elders, deacons).
- C. What Can We Do About It?
 - 1. First, we can ask "Why be a leader?"
 - 2. Second, we can ask "Where do we get leaders?"
 - 3. Third, we can ask, "Why is there a decline in leadership?"
 - 4. Fourth, we can ask, "What happens when leaders are strong?"
- D. A large portion of the material in this lesson was adapted from information found in *Christian Leadership Handbook* by J.J. Turner (Howard Publishing Co., 1991).

II. WHY BE A LEADER?

- A. Some Negative Reasons.
 - 1. There are some bad reasons why a man should want to lead. The following scriptures contain examples of leaders with bad motives: Rom. 2:17-24; 2 Cor. 10:12-18; 11:13-20; Gal. 6:12-13; Phil. 2:15-17; Col. 2:8, 16-23; 2 Thess. 2:3-10; 1 Tim. 1:3-7; 4:1-3; 6:3-5; 2 Tim. 2:16-18; 3:1-9; Tit. 1:10-12; 2 Pet. 2; 3 Jn. 9-10; Jude 4, 8-13, 18-19; Rev. 2:20-23.
 - 2. A person should not want to lead because...
 - a) He wants to give orders.
 - b) He wants to be a dictator.
 - c) He was merely needed to fill a job or position.

- d) He wants personal gain.
- e) He wants to satisfy his ego.
- f) He feels he controls a major portion of the contribution.
- g) He feels pressured by others.
- h) He has selfish motives.
- i) He feels insecure about his own salvation.
- j) He wants to lead, but he is not prepared to lead.

B. Some Positive Reasons.

1. There are some good reasons why a person should want to lead. Jesus presents the good motives for leadership in Matthew 9:36-38, Luke 10:2, and John 4:35-38.
2. A person should want to lead because...
 - a) God wants and expects good leaders.
 - b) God's cause needs good leaders.
 - c) God's work cannot be left to chance.
 - d) God's time for good leaders is now.

III. WHERE DO WE GET LEADERS?

- A. Men Who Respond to a Need (Ex. 3:1ff; Isa. 6:1-6).
- B. Men Who Respond to Duty (Mt. 25:14-30).
- C. Men Who Respond to Training (2 Tim. 2:2).
 1. A good training program must reach all of the members.
 2. A good training program must reach each group in its own session, on its own level, and with its own needs and objectives.
 3. A good training program must not be left to chance.

IV. WHY IS THERE A DECLINE IN LEADERSHIP (1 COR. 15:58; GAL. 6:9)?

- A. The Path of Least Resistance.
- B. A "Hum-Drum" Routine.
- C. A Lack of Training to Finish the Job.
- D. Too Many Responsibilities.
- E. A Loss of Interest or Laziness Regarding Leadership Training.
- F. Personality Problems Among Leaders.
- G. Communication Gaps Between Leaders and Followers.
- H. Failure to Add New Leaders to the Existing Leadership.

- I. Lack of Appreciation for Leadership Training.
- J. Entrance of Sin into the Leadership.
- K. Discouragement.
- L. Thinking the Challenge Has Already Been Met.
- M. Thinking That an Individual Will Become a Leader Naturally Without Any Formal Training.

V. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN LEADERS ARE STRONG?

- A. The Flock Will (Jn. 10:1-18, 27-29) ...
 - 1. Follow.
 - 2. Be united.
 - 3. Be fed, nourished, and spiritually-minded.
 - 4. Be busy working (Eph. 4:11-12).
 - 5. Be orderly, autonomous, and all-sufficient.
 - 6. Be prayerful and knowledgeable in God's word.
- B. The World Will (Mt. 5:16; Jn. 13:35; 17:21-23; 1 Pet. 2:12) ...
 - 1. Be impressed.
 - 2. Be evangelized.

VI. CONCLUSION.

- A. We Will Get More Leaders When...
 - 1. We understand why we need to be good leaders.
 - 2. We train more persons to be leaders.
 - 3. We understand why leaders have failed in the past and prevent it from happening again in the future.
 - 4. We desire the benefits of strong leaders.
- B. What Will You Do to Help Solve the Leadership Crisis?

Lesson Five Discussion

1. God wants his people to follow _____. Give some Biblical examples in both testaments.
2. Why is good leadership important in the local church?
3. Take the passages listed under II.A.1. and summarize the bad motives for leadership found in each one.
4. What are some good motives for leadership found in the words of Jesus in Matthew 9:36-38, Luke 10:2, and John 4:35-38?
5. When men respond to _____, _____, and _____ there will be good leaders in the local church.
6. What common factor is found in 1 Corinthians 15:58 and Galatians 6:9 that will prevent a decline in leadership?
7. What benefits will the local church and the world have from strong leaders?
8. What will you do to help solve our leadership crisis? This is not merely a "thought" question. Write down a specific goal that you will set and reach to help achieve a strong leadership in the local church of which you are a member.