

Our scripture shows the power of leadership.

I. THE PRINCIPLE OF LEADERSHIP

A. God's plan is leadership

1. God chooses and works through leaders/Pastors/men of God

a. *Joshua 1:6 Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.*

b. *We are a Pastor-lead Fellowship: Not boards/councils/committees*

B. Our scripture is a record of Priests/Levites – leaders making a public covenant with God

1. What the leaders are – the people will become

a. *Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.*

b. *1 Tim 4:16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.*

2. Exampleship: We minister what we are! Not what we say/what we pretend/what we wish

a. *1 Th 2:8 ...we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls*

1. More than information comes across – our own souls/who we are!

b. Some men struggle to get their people to give/surrender – b/c they won't!

3. Impartation: Truth must be made flesh – it has to be seen: Jesus Christ is God in the flesh

a. We must model/demonstrate what it is we want other people to be *1 Cor 11:1 be followers of me*

1. *1 Pet 5:3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.*

a. A die – metal cast will take it's shape: People will take your shape – will become like you!

II. RESPONSIVE HEARTS

A. There is a danger in handling the holy things of God

1. We become immune to the power of the presence of God – the word of God

a. *Uzzah: The presence of God is just another piece of furniture*

2. The danger is that over time our hearts slowly harden

a. *Pride: We know it all/we know how it's done...are you telling me what to do?*

1. *Become critics: Take apart how something is said instead of hearing what is being said*

b. These Priests/Levites had positions/prestige/longevity

3. If our hearts harden: We can get to a point where we move beyond conviction

a. *Neh 9:17 They refused to obey, And they were not mindful of Your wonders That You did among them. But they hardened their necks, And in their rebellion They appointed a leader To return to their bondage.*

B. Our scripture flows out of Chap. 8: The preaching of God's word

1. They recognized their failings – how they had moved away from God's will

a. *Neh 9:33 However You are just in all that has befallen us; For You have dealt faithfully, But we have done wickedly.*

2. As leaders – they still responded to God's word/God's will

a. They make a covenant/sign their names: We still respond when God speaks!

3. The reason this is important: What the leaders are/do – the people will become/do!

III. 3 AREAS OF COVENANT

A. Righteousness: These men commit themselves to do what is right

1. *Nehemiah 10:29 ...they entered into a curse and an oath to walk in God's Law, which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the LORD our Lord, and His ordinances and His statutes:*

a. This is not going to change over time/based on people's opinions

B. Separation: They commit themselves to being separate/different than the world

1. *Neh 10:30 We would not give our daughters as wives to the peoples of the land, nor take their daughters for our sons;*

a. Intermarriage will cause them to become like those around them

1. *Neh 13:23-24 ...Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. 24 And half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and could not speak the language of Judah, but spoke according to the language of one or the other people.*

C. Money: They commit themselves to do right in the area of money V31-39

1. Pastors/leaders have to do right with money: Tithing – personal/church; Liberality; Integrity

a. *Pastor's question: How do you get Pastors to tithe? Busy/money is tight*

D. The result: V28-29 the rest of the people do the same as the leaders!