

Qualities of Public and Community Leaders I

The scriptures give us many qualities, examples and models of great and wicked leaders. When the Hebrew children left Egypt, Yahweh guided them from being a just people to becoming a nation. The Lord gave them guidelines for the community.

I

Leaders must recognize what God intended for the community.

- God's desires life to go well with all the people in the community.

Deuteronomy 6: 1 Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the ordinances—that the Lord your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, ² so that you and your children and your children's children may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, **so that your days may be long.** ³ Hear therefore, **O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey,** as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you.

- Leaders desires should align with God for all the community,

II

Leaders must recognize God's Law is greater and above them.

- God's Law is bigger than Individuals

Deuteronomy 6: 4 Hear, **O Israel:** The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. ⁵ **You** shall love the Lord **your** God with all **your** heart, and with **all your** soul, and with **all your** might.

Leaders recognize the Lord speaks to the community.

- Our faith is not just personal and private, it is communal.

III

Leaders must recognize when there is plenty, it is God's grace.

Leaders must not forget the LORD, Yahweh. *Vs 12*

- Leaders must remember they are in place by God's grace and permission.

Deuteronomy 6:10 When the Lord your God has brought you into the land that he swore to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—a land with fine, large cities that you did not build, ¹¹ houses filled with all sorts of goods that you did not fill, hewn cisterns that you did not hew, vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant—and when you have eaten your fill, ¹² **take care that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.**

- Leaders must hold to the Lords' standards.

IV

Leaders must do justice only justice.

- Leaders must treat all people fairly.
- Fair treatment of all people brings shalom, peace in the community

Leaders must not pervert or twist justice.

Leaders must not accept bribes, rewards or presents.

- Bribes pervert and overthrows justice and fairness.

Deuteronomy 16:18 “You shall appoint judges and officers in all your towns that the LORD your God is giving you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment.

¹⁹ You shall not pervert justice. You shall not show partiality, and you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and

subverts the cause of the righteous. ²⁰ **Justice, and only justice**, you shall follow, **that you may live and inherit the land** that the LORD your God is giving you.

- Leaders must make decisions without self-interest and partiality.
- Justice leaders work for the benefit of all in the community.
- Justice leaders create peace, shalom, in the community.
- Justice leaders want all to share in the inheritance.
- Justice leaders want fairness for all, from the womb to the tomb.