

Qualities of Public and Community Leaders II

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 just a people to becoming a nation.

The judges were decision makers in the community.

ESV 2 Chronicles 19:5 He appointed judges in the land in all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city, ⁶ and said to the judges, “**Consider what you do, for you judge not for man but for the LORD. He is with you in giving judgment.** ⁷ Now then, let the fear of the LORD be upon you. Be careful what you do, **for there is no injustice with the LORD our God, or partiality or taking bribes.**”

The people appointed leaders in the community.

The leaders were to hold the standard of God.

The leaders stand in the stead of God in judgment.

There is no injustice, partiality and bribes with God.

Look for these qualities.

ESV Amos 5:10 They hate him who reproves in the gate, and they abhor him who speaks the truth. ¹¹ **Therefore because you trample on the poor and you exact taxes of grain from him, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not dwell in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine.** ¹² For I know how many are **your transgressions and how great are your sins— you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and turn aside the needy in the gate.**

- Public officials are not to over tax the poor, afflict the righteous, take bribes and ignore the needy.

I

The Kings were not to be like neighboring kings.

Deuteronomy 17:14-17 ¹⁴ “When you come to the land which the LORD your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, ‘**I will set a king over me like all the nations that are around me,**’ ¹⁵ **you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses;** one from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you, who is not your brother. ¹⁶**But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the LORD has said to you, ‘You shall not return that way again.’** ¹⁷**Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself.**

They give standards to public leaders.

- Don’t increase your armies. *Vs 16*
- Don’t multiply wives. *Vs 17a*
- Don’t multiply personal wealth, silver and gold. *Vs 17bII*

The economics of great public leaders should honor God.

Great community leaders remember they are stewards of His resources.

Great public leaders don’t forget the Lord.

Deuteronomy 6:10 – 12 ¹⁰When 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, ¹¹houses 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.**

Deuteronomy 15:1 Every seventh year you shall grant a remission of debts. ²**And this is the manner of the remission: every creditor shall remit the claim that is held against a neighbor, not exacting it of a neighbor who is a member of the community, because the Lord's remission has been proclaimed.** ³Of a foreigner you may exact it, but you must remit your claim on whatever any member of your community owes you. ⁴There will, however, be no one in need among you, because the Lord is sure to bless you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you as a possession to occupy, ⁵if only you will obey the Lord your God by diligently observing this entire commandment that I command you today.

- Great community leaders hold to the standard of the Lord.
- The Lord is against debt and for debt forgiveness.

III

Prophets were called to hold systems and community leaders accountable.

Deuteronomy 18: 15-19 ¹⁵**The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet.** ¹⁶This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸**I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their**

own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable.

Moses made a demand on Pharaoh.

- Moses confronted the oppression of Egypt.
- Moses demanded liberation from slavery.
- Moses gave a vision for a new community,

IV

There is community responsibility.

The community was to recognize the grace of God and His love among them.

The community was to honor God through obedience.

***Deuteronomy 7:7* It was not because you were more numerous than any other people that the Lord set his heart on you and chose you—for you were the fewest of all peoples. ⁸It was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath that he swore to your ancestors, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. ⁹Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who maintains covenant loyalty with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations, ¹⁰and who repays in their own person those who reject him. He does not delay but repays in their own person those who reject him. ¹¹Therefore, observe diligently the commandment—the statutes and the ordinances—that I am commanding you today.**

- Personal, family and community obedience are demanded.
- Community o*bedience* brings community peace.