

Sermon: Deuteronomy 31

1. Leaders are biblical
2. Leaders leave
3. Leaders should be followers
4. Leaders love the Law

1. leaders are Biblical

- a. The book of Judges is full of leaders who follow in the line Moses and Joshua. Later the books of Samuel, Kings and Cronicles as well as the Major and Minor Prophets all address the leadership of the kings of Israel. Ezra and Nehemiah lead in the reconstruction of the city of Jerusalem and Temple of God.
- b. Jesus appoints 12 men who are called Apostles who lead the early church by teaching others what Jesus taught them.
- c. Romans 12 lists leadership as a spiritual gift along side help, exhortation, giving, mercy and the rest
- d. Acts 20:28 *Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.*
- e. Leadership is all over the bible

2. Leaders Leave

- a. Weather through death as will be the case with Moses
 - i. All the Judges died, all the kings died
- b. In the case of Paul
 - i. Every letter Paul wrote with the exception of Romans is to people that he had lead and then left
- c. Application: if your Following because of the leader, when the leader leaves you will flounder. Real followers must follow the one behind the leader-

3. Leaders should be Followers

- a. Joshua had been right hand man of Moses for some 40 years
 - i. Exodus 17 he held up Moses arms
 - ii. Numbers 13 Joshua is one of the 12 spies who go
 - iii. Before they were apostles they were disciples- meaning before they led they followed

4. Leaders should love the Law vs 24 ff

- a. Moses has the book of the law placed in the Ark
- b. Deuteronomy 17 tells us that the king should make and keep his own copy of the law
- c. Jesus did not come to abolish the law but to fulfill it

Joshua to Succeed Moses

1So Moses continued to speak these words to all Israel. 2And he said to them, "I am 120 years old today. I am no longer able to go out and come in. The LORD has said to me, 'You shall not go over this Jordan.' 3The LORD your God himself will go over before you. He will destroy these nations before you, so that you shall dispossess them, and Joshua will go over at your head, as the LORD has spoken. 4And the LORD will do to them as he did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, and to their land, when he destroyed them. 5And the LORD will give them over to you, and you shall do to them according to the whole commandment that I have commanded you. 6Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

7Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land that the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall put them in possession of it. 8It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

The Reading of the Law

9Then Moses wrote this law and gave it to the priests, the sons of Levi, who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and to all the elders of Israel. 10And Moses commanded them, "At the end of every seven years, at the set time in the year of release, at the Feast of Booths, 11when all Israel comes to appear before the LORD your God at the place that he will choose, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing. 12Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourner within your towns, that they may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God, and be careful to do all the words of this law, 13and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as you live in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess."

Joshua Commissioned to Lead Israel

14And the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, the days approach when you must die. Call Joshua and present yourselves in the tent of meeting, that I may commission him." And Moses and Joshua went and presented themselves in the tent of meeting. 15And the LORD appeared in the tent in a pillar of cloud. And the pillar of cloud stood over the entrance of the tent.

16And the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, you are about to lie down with your fathers. Then this people will rise and whore after the foreign gods among them in the land that they are entering, and they will forsake me and break my covenant that I have made with them. 17Then my anger will be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them and hide my face from them, and they will be devoured. And many evils and troubles will come upon them, so that they will say in that day, 'Have not these evils come upon us because our God is not among us?' 18And I will surely hide my face in that day because of all the evil that they have done, because they have turned to other gods.

19"Now therefore write this song and teach it to the people of Israel. Put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for me against the people of Israel. 20For when I have brought them into the land flowing with milk and honey, which I swore to give to their fathers, and they have eaten and are full and grown fat, they will turn to other gods and serve them, and despise me and break my covenant. 21And when many evils and troubles have come upon them, this song shall confront them as a witness (for it will live unforgotten in the mouths of their offspring). For I know what they are inclined to do even today, before I have brought them into the land that I swore to give." 22So Moses wrote this song the same day and taught it to the people of Israel.

23And the LORD^a commissioned Joshua the son of Nun and said, "Be strong and courageous, for you shall bring the people of Israel into the land that I swore to give them. I will be with you."

24When Moses had finished writing the words of this law in a book to the very end, 25Moses commanded the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, 26"Take this Book of the Law and put it by the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against you. 27For I know how rebellious and stubborn you are. Behold, even today while I am yet alive with you, you have been rebellious against the LORD. How much more after my death! 28Assemble to me all the elders of your tribes and your officers, that I may speak these words in their ears and call heaven and earth to witness against them. 29For I know that after my death you will surely act corruptly and turn aside from the way that I have commanded you. And in the days to come evil will befall you, because you will do what is evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger through the work of your hands."