

LEADERSHIP

Text: Psalm 101

Intro:

- Character seems to be no longer an issue with folks when choosing a person for elected office.
- The scriptures have a lot to say about a person's character.
 - Prov. 22:1 – “A [good] name [is] rather to be chosen than great riches, [and] loving favour rather than silver and gold.”
 - Ecces. 7:1 – “A good name [is] better than precious ointment;...”
- This is especially important for our leaders or rulers.
 - Prov. 29:2 – “When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.”
 - Prov. 29:8 – “Scornful men bring a city into a snare: but wise [men] turn away wrath.”
- The coming election in November will determine much for the future of this nation and the lives of its people.
- It will determine the leadership of our cities, our states, and the nation.
- Leaders have potential for great good or great evil.
- They provide models for behavior.
- They are advocates of ideas, philosophies and policies that they hope to impose on the people.
- They are given the power to make decisions that may impact almost every aspect of our lives.
- Because of this, the Christian should take his or her vote seriously.
- It should be made after prayer, information gathering and careful thought
- Psalm 101, is a Psalm of David.
- Psalm 101 is David's prayer upon becoming King of Israel.
- Psalm 101, is perhaps one of the most concise statement of effective, beneficial leadership.
- Psalm 101 gives the description of a model leader for God and the people.

- It is my prayer that each of here will use Psalm 101, as our measurement for choosing our leaders this coming November.

I. vs. 1-4 – The Personal Character of a Model Leader

- **Vs.1 - Balanced Attitude** – In decision making a leader must have a balance of mercy and judgment.
- Notice what Jesus said about judgment – **Jn. 5:30**
- **See James 2:13**
- Decision making not for self interest.
- Not for getting back at someone.
- Not seeking own will.
- Leader must remember the mercy God had on this world through His Son.
- **Vs. 2 – Blameless Conduct**
- “behave” – how one will conduct themselves
- Verse 2 speaks of the personal conduct of the leader.
- The words “wisely” and “perfect” suggest carefulness, thoughtfulness, integrity and wholesomeness.
- Characteristics of the wise
 - I. **Pro. 8:33 & 12:15** – Person who listens.
 - II. **Pro. 15:2** – Know how to use knowledge in the right way.
 - III. **Pro. 15:7** - Gives the knowledge to others.
 - IV. **Pro. 17:10** - Expects criticism.
 - V. **Pro. 24:5** - Strong character.
 - VI. **Pro. 29:8** - Peacemaker.
 - VII. **Pro. 29:11** – Not quick to speak.
- “Perfect” – Does not mean sinless.
- But means a leader conducts himself in such a way no one can link him to any scandalous behaviour.
- Good Testimony.
- Man who is always examining himself before God, actively seeking to be right with God.
- **Vs. 2 – Spiritual Hunger –“O when wilt thou come unto me”**

- The model leader has a desire for communion and fellowship with God.
- “come unto me” is an invitation.
- The model leader not only has a desire to have fellowship with God but actually invites God to be a part of his life.
- He meets with God through communion in God’s Word, through prayer and praise.
- He recognizes that he needs God’s help to do his job.
- **Vs. 2 – Pure Motive – “I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.”**
 - This is a statement concerning the leader’s private walk.
 - A model leader’s public and private walk should be the same.
 - Often leaders may have a public walk which is just a façade.
 - Come to find out his private walk, family life is a mess – scandal cheats on the wife, never spends anytime with children, neglects the family.
 - His private life before those in his house (where no one on outside can see him) will reveal his inner man, his motives.
 - The model leader’s desire is to be “perfect” in the sense of innocent, wholesome, and adhering to God’s moral code.
 - Thus, he will not be self-centered, but centered in what is best for those he serves according to God
- **Vs. 3- Read – Discernment of Influences**
 - Verse 3, speaks of things that might influence a leader.
 - The “wicked things” – “the work of them that turn aside”, are influences that must be guarded against.
 - Here, David is speaking about what is worthless, destructive, crooked, and harmful.
 - Although, he cannot prevent encountering such things or people, he resolves not to entertain them, interact with them, but to separate himself from them.
 - To do so requires discernment and personal discipline or “personal separation”.
- **Vs. 4 – Read – Companions of Characters (who he surrounds himself with)**
 - Speaks of – counselors, officers, servants, & others who surrounds the Government leader.

- David speaks of those who would not be his companions.
- Those he would reject and not be a part of his administration.
- A person with a “forward” or “twisted, perverse, and disobedient heart.”
- And the “wicked” or evil person.
- David realized we become like those whom we associate with – **See Pro. 13:20.**
- Therefore, the choice of friends and subordinates is crucial to his personal character and leadership.

- These six areas are vital to character of any person.
- Should be areas of concern when choosing elected officials
 - I. Balance Attitude
 - II. Blameless Conduct
 - III. Spiritual Hunger
 - IV. Pure Motives
 - V. Discernment of Influences
 - VI. Companions of Characters.

II. The Public Conduct of a Model Leader Vs. 5-8 (Broken down two areas)

- A.** Those he will punish.
 - David pledges himself to the will of God and the betterment of the people.
 - He is determined to punish four types of conduct.

- 1) **Vs. 5 – Read, “privily slandereth his neighbor”**
 - False charges or misrepresentations that defame or damage another’s reputation.
 - This promise is also an affirmation to defend and deal in truth with others.

- 2) **Vs. 5 – “him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.”**
 - Promises to punish elitism and exaltation of one individual or group above another.
 - The idea of a “high look” and a “proud heart” is superiority, arrogance and the opposite of the attitude of the worshipper.
 - This vow is a commitment to impartiality and equality in dealing with the people he governs.
 - This comes from a leader who has a spirit of humility and reverence.

3) **Vs. 7 – Read.**

- Promises to punish ones “that worketh deceit” and “tellethe lies”
- This is a pledge to honor the truth.
- Such a practice would protect people in matters of judgment and set an example that encourages the keeping of contracts and the fulfilling of promises – Bankruptcy stuff.
- Where someone word on something means something.
- It would protect the people from those who would say anything to gain an advantage – characteristic of most politicians.

4) **Vs. 8 – Read**

- Promises to punish the criminal those who trouble the people – “wicked”.
- The model leader promises to be tough on crime and the trouble maker.
- Such people he vows to “cut off” or destroy or put away from society.

B. Those he would promote.

- Model leader does more than execute judgment.
- He sets an example by the people he promotes.
- There are two kinds of people who receive the praise and exaltation of the model leader. **Read Vs. 6.**

1) **He promotes the “faithful of the land”**

- Meaning of “faithful” in the text suggest these people are supporters, upholders, or pillars to that which is praiseworthy, worthwhile, honest, beneficial & good.
- They honor God, His Word and ways by their conduct, attitude, & influence.
- They are the kind of people the model leader wants “to dwell with me”.

2) **He promotes those “that walketh in a perfect way”**

- He is a person with goals, values, ideas, and conduct like the model leader himself.
- He is sound, wholesome and complete in integrity.
- He can be counted on to say what he means, means what he says, and do what he promises.

- That is the kind of person the model leader is, and that is the kind of person he says, “shall serve me”

Conclusion:

- Who is the model leader?
- It is obvious if you know anything about the life of David that he did not fulfill the lofty principals and ideas presented in Psalm 101.
- However, they were the desires of his heart.
- In fact, God described David as man after God’s own heart (1 Sam. 13:14).
- The only one who can fulfill them completely is the Lord Jesus Christ, our risen and soon appearing King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- Who should you vote for?
- Vote for those candidates that most closely identify with the principles of the model leader in Psalm 101.