

Leadership Failings

Some leadership in society is falling short of its calling. It's alarming! Consider Biblical history.

- 1 Self-serving politics & control as one's goal. The goal of Ahab and Jezebel was not the Lord's good or Israel's good, but to have power! They were succeeding, getting whatever they wanted. What's crazy, they had an unbelievable national approval rating, which left God's people and his prophet Elijah in the minuscule minority. By God's judgment Ahab was later taken down in battle, and Jezebel was thrown by her own servants from an upper story window, and trampled by horse's feet, with her blood being licked up by dogs (*1st Kings 16—2nd Kings 9*).
- 2 Caving into weak factors. When Saul defied God's instruction, which said, "Utterly destroy all...", he reasoned, "But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed." God rejected Saul from being king, partly because sought human approval (*1st Samuel 15*).
- 3 Charismatic personality replaces godly wisdom. Just because someone wins an election, it does not mean they are suited to lead. King Saul was approved by the majority. "He was choice and handsome, ...From his shoulders upward, he was taller than any of the people." But Saul did not have the faith which was necessary to lead the people of God. This was not a concern of the people, and from the standpoint of the world arena, they were proud of their king, chanting, "Long live the king!" (*1st Samuel 5-10*). Saul looked like a king, with celebrity status! But, when Saul failed spiritually and militarily, all his "charisma" was meaningless.
- 4 Redefining morality. As King, David was guilty of adultery and murder. Everything kept going on, business as usual. Was God going to redefine his righteousness for the sake of David? No! God punished David with: the death of his offspring, the sword would not depart from his house, his own family would become

- 5 his adversaries, and his wives would lie with his neighbor (*2nd Samuel 11-12*). Immorality (murder, abortion, adultery, homosexuality, drunkenness) is not redefined by human potentates. It will be punished by divine judgment.
- 6 Hypocrisy. Ezekiel, God's prophet, condemned Israel's shepherds (leaders) who ate the fat and wore the wool, but failed to feed the sheep (*Ezekiel 34*). They fleeced the flock of God's people. Leaders who lie and steal, purportedly protecting the flock, are hypocrites. When Jesus walked on earth, he condemned the scribes and Pharisees, who pretended righteous leadership, yet were fools and blind, as corrupt as dead men's bones (*Matthew 23*). God reserves judgment for hypocritical leaders.
- 7 Capable persons backpedaling from leadership positions. Leadership is very lonely. Jonah ran from it. Moses felt it. (*Numbers 20*) So did Elijah (*1st Kings 19*), and Jesus (*John 15:32*). The latter three did not sit on their hands when called, and these did not quit.

Christians cannot control most of society's "leaders" but we can control ourselves. We need husbands, wives, and parents who follow God's righteous will. We need elders, deacons, preachers, teachers and members who do what God teaches; not to be people pleasers, nor to substitute charismatic personality for godly wisdom. We need to be morally pure, without hypocrisy. We need to step forward and lead. God needs leaders among us who will shine as a light in the world, giving him the glory. "*Let your light so shine...*" (*Matt. 5:16*).

Carl Lungstrum