

Series: Would the REAL GOD please stand up!

Part Eight: Follow the Leaders

Sunday April 9, 2017

TEXT: Exodus 17, 18

1. How do we tend to solve our problems? What's our typical process? Panic? Complain? Evoke sympathy? Then... Break down the problem. Get counsel. Generate possible solutions. Shortlist a couple. Weight the pros and cons. Choose one and pray that it'll work?
2. Do we pray for and support the spiritual leaders in our lives (Heb. 13:17)?
3. Who are your Aaron and Hur? And who are you Aaron and Hur to in your life?
4. *Yahweh Nissi* = the Lord is my Banner.
5. Do we listen for and act on the truth from whomever we might hear it?

TAKEAWAYS

1. Should Christians go to war?
 - A. No – because war devalues human life. Yes – because we're in one! See 2 Cor. 10:3-5 + Eph. 6:12. Yes – because we can serve without taking life.
 - B. No – because the model for Christian living is Jesus himself – who taught and modeled the ways of enemy love and self-sacrifice. See Mt. 5:43-44.
 - C. No – because we are citizens of the Kingdom of God.
2. What makes a good leader?
 - A. A good leader sets priorities + delegates tasks because he *knows* he can't do it all.
 - B. A good leader listens to and acts upon constructive criticism.
 - C. A good leader asks clarifying questions before sharing constructive criticism.
 - D. A good leader backs off when he has shared the truth in love.

TIME FOR REFLECTION

1. How can you engage a violent world without using violence? Imagine scenes and situations where you could bring about peace by peaceful means.
2. What are your leadership strengths? How are you using them to help others? If someone were to point out a leadership gap in you (and we all have them!) – How would you respond?

Study Notes

DISCUSSION

1. What stood out to you about Sunday's teaching – lessons learned or lingering questions?
2. Talk about the Aaron and Hur in your lives. When was a time that you were supported by the body of Christ? When was a time when you were that support to someone else in the body? Compare the impact of both experiences on your faith.

BIBLE

3. Read Mt. 5:38-48; Lk. 6:27-36; Ro. 5:6-10. What did Jesus teach his disciples and what did He model for them about how to treat enemies?
4. Read Ex. 17:8-16. This is the first of the OT wars of Israel. How would you respond to someone who said, "I don't know why you think Christians should be non-violent? After all, there's lots of God-sanctioned wars in the bible"?
5. What's the difference between the role Joshua plays, Moses plays, and Aaron and Hur play during the battle against the Amalekites? How does this relate to the spiritual battle that we are engaged in as Christians? Talk about situations in your spiritual life where you have taken on these different roles?
6. Read Ro. 10:17. Jethro's faith was moved along by hearing what God had done for Israel from someone who experienced it for himself. This seems to be a way that it works. Do you ever talk to people about what God has done through Jesus – both 2000 years for everyone and in your life today?

APPLICATION

7. Who will you approach this week to support or to be supported by?
8. What's one thing you've recently learned as a leader? Who will you pass this lesson along to this week?