

Spiritual Leadership

(Ezekiel 22:30)

- Introduction:
1. Ills. of Point man.
 2. Leadership in the church must also be a very scary and responsibility laden job.
 3. There have been times in history that people suffered for lack of leadership – “So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one” (Ezekiel 22:30).
 4. But then, there have been other times when man have stood up and accepted the challenge of the hour – “Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here am I! Send me.’” (Isaiah 6:8).
 5. Ills. anyone can steer a ship, but it takes a leader to chart a course.
 6. Let’s examine a few examples of great leadership and the qualities it exhibits.

I. Noah (Genesis 6-7)

- A. *Noah served in spite of overwhelming challenges.*
- B. Consider the size of the ark, the time, the work, the ridicule, the faith.
- C. But he obeyed (Genesis 6:22).

II. Elijah (1 Kings 18:1-40)

- A. *Elijah stood alone.*
- B. He was falsely accused, misrepresented, and spoken evil against, but he didn’t quit.
- C. That’s enough to make many men quit.

III. Hosea (Hosea 1:1-8)

- A. *Hosea remained faithful under hard to obey commands.*
- B. He was asked to marry a prostitute, to lead during a time of rebellion, and preach an unpopular message.
- C. But he did.

IV. David (1 Chronicles 21:1-17)

- A. *David accepted responsibility.*
- B. He accepted the blame for his mistake, and he “fell forward.”

V. Deborah (Judges 4-5).

- A. *Deborah’s leadership reminds us of the shame of men failing to provide leadership.*

B. Deborah, herself, saw it as a shameful thing (Judges 4:8-9).

- Conclusion:
1. We are blessed to be led by men who possess the qualities we mentioned today.
 2. They have led us through uncharted waters during the past year.
 3. They have made difficult decisions that were not liked, but they planted their feet firmly and did what they believed was right.
 4. I'm thankful for their leadership through this crisis and for their continual watching out for our souls.
 5. If you have been trying to "go it alone," I would encourage you to follow God's plan, become a member of the church, and with each other's help, travel that narrow path to Heaven.