



LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM A FATHER-IN-LAW

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Men have their list of qualifications for leaders, and many churches have their lists too. What does God desire? A study of Scriptures reveals He has always had a desire when it comes to His approved leaders. Jethro, Moses father-in-law, once gave the great leader a list of what God wanted in leaders at that time in Israel (cf. Ex. 18:7-27). These principles are still applicable today. Read the texts and you will see some of the following qualities:

1. These men were to be teachable (18:20a).
2. They must be able to follow examples (18:20b).
3. They take the assignments seriously (18:20c).
4. They must be capable men, not novices (18:21a).
5. They must reverence God (18:21b).
6. They must be trustworthy men (18:21c).
7. They hate dishonest gain (18:21d).
8. They will serve the people (“appoint them”, 18:21e).
9. They will serve according to abilities (18:21f).
10. They will serve willingly (18:22a).
11. They are men who know how and when to refer to more competent leaders (18:22b).
12. They must be willing to share the work load (18:22c).

Application: God is still looking for the same kind of leaders today (cf. 1 Tim. 3:1-7; 2 Tim. 2:1-3; Eph. 4:11-16). How do you plan to use this lesson in your ministry? How close do you come to meeting these ancient leadership qualities? How can leaders apply these qualities today?

What great advice from a father-in-law. As leaders we need to be open to advice. “Two heads are better than one.”

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