

Expectations of Leaders

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Joshua 1.

B. What do God's people expect of their leaders?

1. That the Lord was with the leader as with Moses.
2. That the leader be strong and of good courage.

II. To be with the Lord.

A. For Moses, the central thing in his time in the wilderness was that God was with him. The land would turn to dust if God was not with him. (Exodus 33)

B. Joshua got instructions to lead from the top down and the bottom up, and so do we. (Isaiah 41:10)

C. The key to God being with us is us being with Him. We need to be careful lest we drift away. (2 Chronicles 15, Hebrews, Judges 16)

D. The great leaders are characterized by having a conscience clear before God and man. (Acts 24:16)

1. This does not mean perfection - God is still the judge.
2. We can find continual forgiveness based upon Jesus' blood and walk in the light. (1 John 1:9, 7)

III. To be strong and of good courage.

A. "Strong" means to fasten upon.

1. If you are going to lead, then you must lead.
2. We must lead with a spirit of love and self control.

B. Courage is to stick with the people.

1. Endurance is primarily a matter of the will.
2. This is not will power, but will to surrender. (1 Samuel 30:6)
3. Courage is a mental willingness to endure the dangers involved.

4. Courage is hanging in there till the end - it is to be like Eleazor, Ruth, Esther and Daniel. (2 Samuel 7:24)

5. More than power to achieve, we need strength to endure with joy. (2 Samuel 2:33, Habakkuk 3:17-18)

6. We are to endure to the end. (John 13:1, Psalm 94:14)

Application questions.

1. Explain in your own words the expectations that God's people ought to have of their leaders.

2. How is it that the leader can make sure that God is with him? Explain this.

3. In what areas could you use some extra strength or endurance? How might the speaker counsel you in these situations?
