



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

LEADING DURING DIFFICULT DAYS

JANUARY 15, 2013

Jeff Lingerfelt / PO Box 12131, Columbia, SC 29211 / Jeff.Lingerfelt@capitolcom.org

As the 1st regular session of the 120th South Carolina General Assembly convenes on January 8, 2013, you will be faced with the task of leading. Your successes and failures will result from the decisions you make. You may call yourself "Civil Leader" but are you really? Will you look good in the eyes of your colleague and constituents or will you labor to please the one who placed you into office?

We have been in the study of First Thessalonians; understanding and getting a handle on qualities that will enable one to lead during difficult days facing the legislature in South Carolina. With budget issues, socio-economic issues, moral and familial issues ripping at the heart of our great state, the question that needs to be asked and answered is what lasting legacy will you make to impact the betterment of this state?

There are some basic biblical principles, if applied and followed that will leave a lasting legacy here in this life and the life to come. The question remains "do you have the backbone" to do what it takes or what is right no matter the consequences? Only you can answer that. Are you for the expedient and temporal or the time tested and proven character qualities that describe Caleb a servant (slave) of God?

There is an insurmountable difference between "Servant Leadership" and "Secular Leadership." The latter focuses on the human ego, while the servant keeps his eyes focused on others and the One who enlisted him into leadership.

Let me explain. Secular leadership makes decisions that will, after history's evaluation, focus on the results that will make the leader appear great to the masses of humanity. In other words, what is history's evaluation of the leader's results? It is result oriented. Now servant leadership is different. It focuses on the one who enlisted or placed the leader into his leadership role.

An ancient Chinese philosopher, Dao Teh Ching, who wrote 500 years before Christ, summarized secular leadership:

"A LEADER IS BEST WHEN PEOPLE BARELY KNOW THAT HE EXISTS, NOT SO GOOD WHEN PEOPLE OBEY AND ACCLAIM HIM, WORSE WHEN THEY DESPISE HIM. FAIL TO HONOR PEOPLE, THEY FAIL TO HONOR YOU; BUT OF A GOOD LEADER, WHO TALKS LITTLE WHEN HIS WORK IS DONE, HIS AIM FULFILLED, THEY WILL ALL SAY, 'WE DID THIS OURSELVES.'"¹

In Number 13-14 we read of Joshua & Caleb and the remaining 10 spies who infiltrated the Promise Land and reported on their findings. Only two, Joshua and Caleb, brought a God-honoring report to Moses, Aaron, and the people.

Numbers 14:24 "But My servant Caleb, because he has had a different spirit and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land which he entered, and his descendants shall take possession of it."

In observing the character leadership traits of Caleb's life, please notice he; 1) is a Servant of God; 2) has the Spirit of God; 3) is Surrendered to God; and 4) has the Strength of God-Joshua 14:10.

SERVANT OF GOD: "My servant Caleb"

Under the influence of God's Spirit, Caleb was a man of bold, generous, heroic courage, above worldly anxieties and fears.² Caleb concurred with the other 11 spies whose report stated that the land did flow rich with resources and large inhabitations who were giants.

Caleb knew whom he served. He rested in the truthfulness of his God. Caleb's report focused on the promises of God. He left the results to God. As we shall see he left the results with the One who enlisted him into service. God fulfilled His promises to Caleb and gave him the land He promised.

"I THINK NO SERVANT OF GOD IS TIRED OF SERVING HIS MASTER. WE MAY BE TIRED IN THE SERVICE, THOUGH NOT TIRED OF IT."
C.H. SPURGEON

"SERVANT LEADERSHIP BEGINS BY SUBMITTING TO JESUS AS MASTER AND OBEDIENTLY FOLLOWING HIS TEACHINGS AND LIFESTYLES AS A LEADER."
GENE WILKES

As a leader do you understand this principle that you are appointed as a servant of God to be a leader? Even the sin of the other spies and the rebellion of the people did not cause God to renege on promises made to His servant Caleb. He inherited the land because he followed "the LORD his God fully" (Joshua 14:8-9,14). Are you, as a Christian legislator, willing to follow whole-heartedly with God no matter the negative feedback from those surrounding you?

SPIRIT OF GOD: "Because he has had a different spirit"

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: WEDNESDAY AT 8:00AM, BLATT BUILDING ROOM 317

STAFF: MONDAYS AT 12:00 NOON, BLATT BUILDING ROOM 317

SOUTH CAROLINA

LEADING DURING DIFFICULT DAYS

Although Caleb concurred with the report his heart rested fully on the faithfulness of God. He was fully persuaded that God was able and would accomplish His promises no matter the insurmountable circumstances, exactly like those of Hebrews chapter 11 who rested on the character of God—His faithfulness and immutability.

This “different spirit” can be taken in two ways: 1) The Holy Spirit; 2) different spirit from those who were spies or an obedient spirit of submissiveness.

“Caleb had another spirit; not only a bold, generous, courageous, noble, and heroic spirit, but the Spirit and influence of God which thus raised him above human inquietudes and earthly fears. Therefore he followed God fully; literally, “and he filled after me:” God showed him the way he was to take and the line of conduct he was to pursue, and he filled up this line, and in all things followed the will of his Maker.”³

SURRENDERED TO GOD: “has followed Me fully”

This is the blessing of full and complete obedience. Caleb admonished the children of Israel to be obedient and chided them for their lack of faith.

Numbers 13:30 Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we will surely overcome it.

He reminded them that the land was an “exceedingly good land” and the “LORD will bring us and give it to us.” Caleb also reminded them not to rebel and do not fear.

God requires bold leadership among His people today. He commands integrity with those in leadership. God also rewards those servants who follow his statutes whole-heartedly. The LORD makes it quite clear that He rewards those whose heart is fully devoted to Him.⁴

Only Caleb and Joshua were excluded from this judgment because of their faith and faithfulness. Where is your heart? Is it in Canaan or in the wilderness where the giants reside? Leaders will face earthly giants, but will you conquer according to God’s prescription or on your own inner resources?

STRENGTH OF GOD: “as my strength was then, so my strength is now”

Joshua 14:10-11 Now behold, the LORD has let me live, just as He spoke, these forty-five years, from the time that the LORD spoke this word to Moses, when Israel walked in the

wilderness; and now behold, I am eighty-five years old today. I am still as strong today as I was in the day Moses sent me; as my strength was then, so my strength is now, for war and for going out and coming in.

Numbers 14:24; Joshua 14:8, 9, 14 But My servant Caleb, I will bring into the land which he entered, and his descendants shall take possession of it. . . . Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt with fear; but I followed the LORD my God fully. . . . So Moses swore on that day, saying, Surely the land on which your foot has trodden will be an inheritance to you and to your children forever, because you have followed the LORD my God fully. . . . Therefore, Hebron became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite until this day, because he followed the LORD God of Israel fully.

God has requirements for those who lead. They must have faith and believe that God will accomplish exactly what He said He would do. Spiritual leaders are not strong natural leaders, motivational gurus, successful businessmen, money savvy or community influencers. These are the types of leaders the godless world is searching for. They search for them for selfish and aggrandizing reasons—what’s in it for me? Sad to say too many of these men are leaders in secular politics and churches today.

The leaders God is searching for are those who have the same devout characteristics as Caleb. They are God’s servants who possess the Spirit of God. They are surrendered whole-heartedly to Him and rely on the strength that He supplies.

Are these characteristics true and active in your life today? If not, I pray they may be increasing and abounding during the difficult days that lie ahead.

Ecclesiastes 12:13—“The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.”

¹ Gangel, Kenneth O.: *Bibliotheca Sacra. Leadership: Coping with Cultural Corruption*—electronic edition. Dallas, TX : Dallas Theological Seminary, 1998.

² Jamieson, Robert ; Fausset, A. R.; Fausset, A. R.; Brown, David; Brown, David: *A Commentary, Critical and Explanatory, on the Old and New Testaments*. Oak Harbor, WA : Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997, S. Nu 14:24

³ *The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge: Five Hundred Thousand Scripture References and Parallel Passages*. Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1995, S. Nu 14:24

⁴ (Num. 14:24; 32:12; Deut. 1:36; Joshua 14:8-9, 14)