

Convent Avenue Baptist Church
Bible Study 2-16-11
Pastor Jesse Williams

The responsibilities of Godly leadership
Exodus 32:1-14

It has always been God's design for humanity that His people would have Godly, spiritual leaders who are entrusted with the enormous task of leading His people. Even when we sometimes do not like or agree with the leader or what the leader does, nonetheless we need the leaders that God calls and assigns. Without leaders, God's people have a tendency to begin to seek their own will rather than God's will; which inevitably leads to trouble and destruction. Additionally, there are always people who share leadership responsibility with the leader who must also have a commitment to God and God's leader. If either the main leader or those who assist the leader turn away from God, then the people will go astray and eventually suffer. That's why it is so important for us to pray for our pastors and all leaders in the church on a daily basis. We should pray for their spiritual connection to God, and for their cooperation with one another. True Godly leadership must have consistency and continuity between the leader and all others who share leadership responsibility.

In the passage we see how there was an inconsistency between Moses and Aaron when Moses was away spending time with God. This eventually led to the people falling into the sin of idolatry and eventually the judgment of God.

I. Moses is spending quality time alone with God on the mountain

Moses has been away for 40 days receiving the law from God on Mt. Sinai. It is important for leaders to spend quality time with God alone sometimes. Every Christian should spend quality time with God as well. Leaders often have to spend extended periods of time alone with God though for the purpose of hearing from Him clearly and completely.

II. Aaron shows his weakness as a leader and fails

Every meeting is not always a good meeting! Sometimes the outcome of meetings results in more destruction and danger. The people are impatient because Moses is away with God, and they seek to revert back to the Egyptian way of idolatry. Aaron gives in to them unfortunately! Leaders cannot be afraid to tell people "no" when it is appropriate to do so. Aaron apparently has also forgotten about Moses and what Moses would do. People in leadership must share the same

spirit as the leader, or there will be confusion. The leader should be present “in the hearts” of others who share leadership responsibilities in the church.

III. God’s anger arises, but Moses intercedes for the people

God is fully aware of what the people are doing and it angers Him. The people are acting like they have forgotten what God has done by delivering them from Egypt, and they have forgotten about Moses as their leader. Their impatience and rebelliousness has led them to a point where God is ready to destroy them! But as a true Godly leader should, Moses intercedes with God and pleads their case before God. God’s leaders must learn to intercede for people, pray for people, serve people and love people even when they are wrong or have been disrespectful or forgetful of their leadership. As the story continues, when Moses gets down to the people, he certainly showed his anger and displeasure too, and the people suffered some judgment from God, but not destruction. But at this moment, Moses is their spiritual leader who fulfills a priestly function by interceding for the people. It is the same thing that Jesus did for us! Leaders must know that they stand to intercede between God and the people, even when they don’t know it or don’t deserve it. This is part of the burden of leadership of God’s people, and this is why our leaders need our prayers and support.