

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont, Texas
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Lesson #8 January 18, 2022, to January 23, 2022

Unit II: GOD: The Source of Justice

Subject: Incorruptible Leaders

Text: Deuteronomy 16: 18-20; 17: 8-13

Key Verse:

Judges and officers shalt thou make thee in all thy gates, which the LORD thy God giveth thee, throughout thy tribes: and they shall judge the people with just judgment (Deuteronomy 16: 18, KJV).

Key Terms:

- 1) Justice – Hebrew: mishpat (mish-pawt’): what is right; judgment.
- 2) Shows contempt– Hebrew: zadon (zawdone’): shows insolence, presumptuousness, arrogance.
- 3) Witness - Hebrew: ed (ayd’): testimony; evidence (of things).

Pointers:

- 1) Secure Just Leaders (Deuteronomy 16: 18-20)
- 2) Honor Just Decisions (Deuteronomy 17: 8-13)

Introduction:

The sovereign GOD chose the Israelites and became their supreme ruling authority. The LORD GOD in HIS all-knowing and all-powerful ways delegated responsibility of managing HIS people’s day by day affairs to HIS chosen individuals such as Moses and Joshua, and a few prophets and judges, which included Samuel.

Samuel who was both prophet and judge, delegated some of his responsibility to his sons, Hophni and Phinehas. This decision by Samuel proved to be corrupt and untrustworthy because they used their position to profit from unjust gains and perverted justice.

The elders of Israel confronted Samuel and requested that they be given a king to rule over them like the other nations. The Israelites did not understand that they were rejecting GOD’s rule and authority over them when they made the request.

The LORD GOD, who is sovereign, granted their request and warned the Israelites that a king would cause more problems, and that they would regret their decision. The solution to this request is to make a commitment to accept and apply the LORD GOD’S standards for civic and religious leaders, but more importantly is for them to have a relationship with the LORD GOD, and to realize that all leaders are accountable to the LORD GOD Almighty. This is the reason why the nation is experiencing a leadership crisis because we have allowed ungodly leadership to rule over the people and not the True and Living GOD.

Lesson Pointer #1

- **Secure Just Leaders (Deuteronomy 16: 18-20):**

Now, when securing just leaders, let us, first seek the LORD GOD in prayer and fasting for just leaders, who have a love and a relationship with the LORD GOD Almighty. Because for a nation to have a just society, that nation must strive to ensure shared prosperity for all citizens. And to guarantee safe, affordable, and comfortable housing, because in a just society, fair and unbiased judgments in the judicial system is and should be a reality. The LORD GOD gave Israel specific instructions and details on how to choose judges to uphold laws that ensures fair judgments that is vital for a just society's maintenance. The LORD GOD said that each tribe were to select judges and officers for their courts to judge their disputes and to render fair decisions (Deuteronomy 16: 18).

These judges and officers were and should still be today prohibited from perverting justice, showing partiality, or accepting bribes that causes their decision to sway (Deuteronomy 16: 19). In no terms are the judges and officers to fail to adhere to the LORD GOD'S established standards of righteousness. Moses made the instructions by emphatically commanding that righteousness be pursued (Deuteronomy 16: 20). Now, understand, that as believers we have the responsibility to seek the LORD GOD'S direction for selecting leaders that will adhere to the standards that the LORD GOD has set, and to use our power that the LORD GOD gives to us seriously when selecting leaders for positions in our nation's judicial system or civic authority in our communities.

Incorruptible Leaders!

Lesson Pointer # 2

- **Honor Just Decisions (Deuteronomy 17: 8-13):**

Moses honored his father-in-law Jethro's advice on how to handle the day-to-day disputes among the people that come before Moses. Jethro counseled Moses to appoint judges to handle the small matters or cases in order to free Moses so, that he can deal with the more serious matters by seeking GOD in the place which GOD chooses (Read Exodus 18: 13-26). So, Moses directed the people who enter or settle in Canaan to follow the same pattern (Deuteronomy 17: 8).

Now, cases, such as, homicides, rights of law, and assault and personal injuries are to be brought before the Priests and judges at the higher level, who serves at the tabernacle or the Temple (Deuteronomy 17: 9). All decisions that were made at this level was final and were expected to be obeyed (Deuteronomy 17: 10).

These decisions are and were binding because they are based on GOD's standards and were made in HIS presence (Deuteronomy 17: 11). The refusal to obey these decisions of GOD's priests and judges was a rebellion against GOD, and the person found guilty of this were executed (Deuteronomy 17: 12).

GOD'S purpose for this strict type of regulation was made to create godly fear and respect for GOD who is the source of justice (Deuteronomy 17: 13). Now, as representatives of GOD, we believers have the responsibility to abide by the law of the land (Read Romans 13: 1-7), and to teach our children to follow their parent's example, in how to select and elect leaders who will follow GOD'S very standards for justice and righteousness and not to follow their own standards.

We as godly parents must show and stand up for what is right and just according to GOD.

Incorruptible Leaders!

Lesson Nuggets:

- 1) Know that all leaders are accountable to the LORD GOD (Deuteronomy 17: 12).**
- 2) We believers have the responsibility to abide by the law of the land (Read Romans 13: 1-7; Titus 3: 1).**
- 3) Let us seek the LORD GOD decisions for our leaders (Deuteronomy 16: 18-20; Exodus 18: 21, 26).**