

When God Picks The Wrong Leader

TWO STRANGE STORIES

Numbers 12 & 16

HOW TO RESPOND WHEN YOU'RE STUCK WITH A LOUSY LEADER

(1) Never forget, God is in control of

WHO'S IN CONTROL.

Romans 13:1-7 Daniel 1:1-2

(2) Learn the important difference between

what we don't **LIKE** and what God **FORBIDS.**

Exodus 1:15-21 & Daniel 3:13-30 Acts 5:29

(3) Remember that **PRIDE** and **ENVY** are far worse

than **BAD LEADERSHIP.**

Proverbs 8:13 & 6:16-19 Philippians 2:3-5 & John 13:1-17 Proverbs 14:30
Matthew 20:1-16 John 21:18-22 James 3:14-18 Galatians 5:20-21 & 1 Peter 2:1

(4) Don't expect life to be **FAIR.**

Count on heaven to be **BETTER THAN FAIR.**

Psalms 73 Matthew 19:29

Food for Thought for the week of July 10, 2016

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. This weekend we heard that God is in control of who's in control. With this and other issues in our life, it can be hard to think that we're not in control. How could the following passages help someone who is struggling with the thought of God being in control of their life?

Psalm 31:19 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁹ How abundant are the good things
that you have stored up for those who fear you,
that you bestow in the sight of all,
on those who take refuge in you.

Romans 8:28 *New International Version (NIV)*

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

John 15:1-27 *New International Version (NIV)*

The Vine and the Branches

¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

⁹ "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

The World Hates the Disciples

¹⁸ "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. ²¹ They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ But this is to fulfill what is written in their

Law: 'They hated me without reason.'

The Work of the Holy Spirit

²⁶ "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. ²⁷ And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

2. Envy is a perfect example of a sin that would be easy to hide without anyone really knowing it. Despite our ability to hide envy, it isn't hidden from God. 1 Kings 21 gives us an example of a king that had power, property and prestige, yet was still plagued by envy. As you read through the story, what catches your attention about how God responds to Ahab's envy?

How did Ahab turn this situation around, and what could be a way for you to turn away from any envy in your life today?

In what areas of your life are you most prone to envy? Is there any envy in your life you'd like to pray about or take action on in the next few days?

3. Let's face it, life can feel unfair. To make matters worse, the Bible is full of things that feel unfair yet we are supposed to follow them! But as we dive deeper into the Bible, it seems there may be a greater purpose for some of these seemingly unfair things. What "unfair" principles or guidelines do you see in the following verses and how could they be for our benefit?

Luke 6:28 *New International Version (NIV)*

²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

Matthew 20:24-27 *New International Version (NIV)*

²⁴ When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. ²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—

Acts 20:35 *New International Version (NIV)*

³⁵ In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

Can you think of anything in your life that seemed unfair but ended up being an important lesson?