I. GODLY LEADERS KNOW THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO DO IS PREPARE OTHERS TO FOLLOW THE LORD NO MATTER WHO IS IN CHARGE. (Deuteronomy 31:1-6)

A. Moses was trained for 40 years in Egypt, getting a world class education and military experience. He then trained for 40 years as a shepherd. Both experiences helped prepare him for his next 40 years of ministry. (Deut. 31:1-2)

B. Moses lived in close communion with the Lord, and therefore knew when to make sure someone else was prepared to continue leading the people. Good leaders and good followers have to be good listeners when God speaks.

C. Godly leaders help people keep their eyes on the Lord. Moses reminded the people that:
   1. God gives clear instructions that we should always follow.
   2. The Lord is the invisible leader in every situation. He has given victory in the past, the present, and he will in the future. (Deuteronomy 31:4-6)
   3. Strength and courage are indispensable for those who will follow the Lord wherever He leads. He will provide it as we trust Him.

   ***ARE YOU TRAINING ANYONE OR BEING TRAINED BY SOMEONE TO ASSUME MORE RESPONSIBILITY IN MINISTRY FOR THE LORD? ARE YOU WILLING TO TAKE ON NEW ASSIGNMENTS?***

II. THE LORD CALLS THOSE HE CHOOSES AS LEADERS, AND HE LETS HIS PEOPLE KNOW WHO HE HAS CHosen SO THEY CAN KNOW WHO TO FOLLOW. (Deuteronomy 31:7-8)

A. Joshua was prepared to lead because he served faithfully under Moses, and demonstrated great faith in the Lord. (Exodus 24:13) (Exodus 33:11) (Numbers 14:6-38)

B. As Joshua served faithfully, he likely had no idea that he would one day have to lead the entire nation. He was able to learn and grow without all the pressure and responsibility. Take advantage of learning by observing others, and let God use you for His glory at His appointed time.

C. Joshua heard the words “be strong and courageous” many times, because he could not do his job without being confident in the Lord. (Deuteronomy 31:7-8; 23) (Joshua 1:1-10) (Joshua 8:1) (Joshua 10:8)
III. GODLY LEADERS HAVE TO CONTINUE PLACING EMPHASIS ON KNOWING AND OBEYING THE WORD OF GOD. (Deuteronomy 31:9-29)

A. Teaching should take place in public and in private. The next generation will not know what to do if we do not teach them the Scriptures. (Deuteronomy 31:9-13) (2nd Timothy 2:2)

B. Turning away from the Lord causes Him to “hide his face” from his people. Prosperity coupled with an ungrateful spirit always leads to drifting away from the Lord, and it often takes painful consequences to drive people back to the Lord. (Deuteronomy 31:14-21)
1. Hosea 5:10-6:4

***HOW DO YOU REMIND YOURSELF OF GOD’S FAITHFULNESS IN THE PAST?***

C. The Word of God is always a witness to human rebellion, and clearly shows the consequences of disobedience. Human beings are stubborn and rebellious by nature, which is why we must never stop proclaiming the Word of God to turn hearts back to the Lord who loves us and can save us. (Deuteronomy 31:22-29)

READ THE WORD REGULARLY. SING SONGS ABOUT THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD. HELP OTHERS LEARN HOW TO OBEY THE LORD BY WATCHING YOUR LIFE. ARE YOU UP TO THE CHALLENGE?

Dr. Ronald J. Morrison
March 31, 2019