

Engaging Gospel Doctrine (Episode 104.2)

LESSON 27 (STUDY NOTES)

The Influence of Wicked and Righteous Leaders

Hook	This lesson's reading contains lots of detail, hard to pronounce names, and a crazy story or two. But mixed up in there it also contains insight about good and bad leadership.
Goal	As stated in the manual, the purpose of this lesson is "To encourage class members to develop good leadership qualities so they can influence others to live righteously."
Overview	
Conclusion	

Correction to consider: This past Sunday the lesson being taught was the one I had just recorded, which motivated me in two ways

- 1) First, to push so we are again ahead of schedule!
- 2) But more importantly, I was moved by the lesson and felt a renewed commitment to make sure that part 1 of the podcast especially is as spiritually nourishing, uplifting, and helpful as I can make it. That goal is always on my mind, but I want to do even better.

I. Sunday School

- a. Tackling the lesson manual purpose head on:
 - i. What are "good leadership qualities"? (NT and D&C, plus TED)
 1. Discuss scriptures
 2. TED (will read quotes in part 2)
 - a. Think, speak, act, from the inside out. Start with why, share what you believe, then figure out the rest
 - b. Drive, passion, commitment, bridging, sense of place in history, part of a larger interdependent whole, humility
 - c. Don't just defend the status quo, anticipate and prepare for the future, and have the stamina to endure criticism
 - d. Don't have a god complex. Be open to being wrong. Embrace trial and error and "make better mistakes"
 - e. If you have changed one person's understanding of self for the better, you have changed the world
 - ii. How do we "influence others to live righteously"?
 - iii. What does this look like in different circumstances? (for our sons and daughters for example)
- b. Lessons in leadership from the reading
 - i. Rehoboam
 - ii. Jeroboam
 - iii. Jehoshaphat
- c. What is the "influence of wicked and righteous leaders"? (Mention Milgrom and Stanford)
- d. The crux of the issue: Obedience and conscience

e. Conclusion I

II. Scholarship

- a. Cast of characters (Rehoboam, Jeroboam, and Jehoshaphat are the only ones you need to remember)
- i. **Rehoboam** Son of Solomon by Solomon's Ammonite wife Naaman, first king of Judah after the fall of the united kingdom
 - ii. **Jeroboam** (and his unnamed wife) First king of Israel. He supervised forced labor under Solomon, rebelled, escaped to Egypt, and then returned after Solomon's death.
 - iii. Shemaiah: prophet inspired to back off from fighting Jeroboam and the northern tribes and instead go home. 1 Chr. 12:15 refers to a book of Rehoboam's reign attributed to Shemaiah.
 - iv. Abijah: Sick son of Jeroboam (LXX says his mother was an Egyptian named Anō). Ironically he receives a proper burial while Jeroboam's other family members are unceremoniously killed, per Ahijah's prophecy.
 - v. Ahijah: The prophet at Shiloh (perhaps descended from the prophet Ahijah at Shiloh who prophesied for Saul in 1 Sam 14?) who first blessed Jeroboam's reign (1 Kgs 11), and then condemns him (for not being faithful to the God of Israel; historically he may have been upset Jeroboam didn't set up Shiloh as a primary sanctuary). The fulfillment of this prophecy is described in 1 Kings 15:29. A commoner Baasha son of Ahijah (a different one) of the tribe of Issachar first assassinated Jeroboam's son Nadab and then the rest of his family. This provides a fulcrum for the Deuteronomistic author to pronounce judgment on all Northern kings.
 - vi. Shishak (actually pronounced Shoshengq) Pharaoh of Egypt who gave Jeroboam asylum, as well as Hadad of Edom, also fleeing Solomon. He later marched into both Judah and Israel, plundering and causing damage to both. Rehoboam paid heavy tribute to preserve Jerusalem from destruction.
 - vii. **Jehoshaphat** (Solomon's great-great grandson) Successful king of Judah, in part because of his alliance with the Northern kingdom (originally initiated by Omri, king of Israel 876-). Jehoshaphat became king at 35 in 873 and reigned for 25 years. His son married Northern King Abah's sister. He therefore governed his people under politically and militarily favorable conditions. The Deuteronomistic historians give him good grades for religious zeal though fault him for failing to remove the local shrines "high places". He called Levites, priests, and prominent laymen to Jerusalem as judges.
 - viii. Jahaziel. A musical prophet! Son of Zechariah and descended from the "Asaph" of the Psalms, member of a guild of temple musicians. Delivers a salvation oracle in response to Jehoshaphat's lament.

Quick genealogy of kings of Judah

David

|

Solomon

|

Rehoboam (930-914)

|

Abijam (914-911)

|

Asa (911-870)

|

Jehoshaphat (870-845)

- b. Narratives to focus on
 - i. Rehoboam's mistakes and the fall of an empire (1 Kings 12)
 - ii. Jeroboam's golden calves (note the close similarities in language to Ex. 32)
 - iii. The strange prophet-battle ('man of god' and prophet)
 - iv. Biases and leadership (Deuteronomist and Chronicler)
 - 1. Deuteronomist: To explain why the Northern Kingdom of Israel and Southern Kingdom of Judea were destroyed, and to show how the religion of Judea was superior to that of Israel (as personified by Josiah's reforms and Manasseh's sin respectively)
 - 2. Chronicler: believed strongly in divine providence and retribution (thus Manasseh repented to justify his long reign)

III. Study Notes

- a. Discussion of leadership in the Church—positives and negatives (good things and issues we need to be careful of)
- b. The benefits and dangers of leadership/authority
 - i. Historical examples (talk about both Milgrom and Stanford experiments)
 - ii. FLDS as a point of comparison
- c. Men, women, and leadership (both in and out of the Church)
- d. Obedience and conscience, take II (balance, often not enough deference for authority)
- e. Conclusion II

Talk about leaders' ability to inspire, both for good and ill

Core of the discussion: the relationship between obedience and conscience

Talk about Manasseh through three lenses: history, Dtr, and Chronicler

Talk about how young people today, especially in America, have too little respect for authority. There needs to be a balance (or is this true? <http://thesituationist.wordpress.com/2007/12/22/the-milgram-experiment-today/>)

Resources:

Milgrom experiment:

<http://rationalfaiths.com/infallibility-vs-arm-flesh/> (Excellent post worth the read)

When pressed by those in authority, people are likely to obey, even to the point of harming others and even going against their own conscience and morality. As seen by the experiment, by simply making the Experimenter no longer be a scientist the 'obey all the way' percentage dropped to 20% (even lower than when the Teacher was in the same room). To repeat, if a scientist told them to shock someone, they were over 3x more likely to do so. So perceived level of authority is a powerful factor to ignoring one's own conscience/morality and obeying, particularly when the authority convinces you that your actions are for the 'greater good.' If a scientist can be perceived at that level of authority, imagine how much more significant the authority of Bishop or Stake President will be for a member.

How often has the Holy Spirit tried to tell us something we needed to know but couldn't get past the massive iron gate of what we thought we already knew? – Dieter Uchtdorf 2012 Worldwide Leadership Training

Now those men, or those women, who know no more about the power of God, and the influences of the Holy Spirit, than to be led entirely by another person, suspending their own understanding, and pinning their faith upon another's sleeve, will never be capable of entering into the celestial glory, to be crowned as they anticipate; they will never be capable of becoming Gods. They cannot rule themselves, to say nothing of ruling others, but they must be dictated to in every trifle, like a child. They cannot control themselves in the least, but James, Peter, or somebody else must control them. They never can become Gods, nor be crowned as rulers with glory, immortality, and eternal lives. They never can hold sceptres of glory, majesty, and power in the celestial kingdom. -Brigham Young 1853 General Conference

Warren Jeffs as a cautionary foil:

<http://flds101.blogspot.com/2008/05/flds-beliefs-101-one-man-rule.html>

LeRoy Johnson decreed this new doctrine: "There is only one man at a time, and that is the way it has been throughout all the history of Gods dealings with people, both in this world and in the world before this one, and the world before that one. Only one man at a time holds the keys and power of the sealing power, and those who act during his administration are only acting under a delegated authority"

Warren Jeffs taught the FLDS children a different version: "About 15-17 years ago, there were several apostles who turned traitor against President Johnson. Many apostles have fallen away, not believing. There is only one man who holds all the powers of priesthood and is the key holder, and that one man today is President Jeffs. He is our Enoch, our Moses, our Elijah. The work of all the prophets is now alive in President Jeffs. . .

<http://flds101.blogspot.com/2009/05/flds-history-101-becoming-prophet-again.html>

("one man rule" is a departure from other fundamentalist Latter-day saints, who have priesthood councils with seniority)

Stanford Prison experiment

Synoptic History of the Divided Monarchy to the Fall of the Northern Kingdom (1 Kgs 12:1–2 Kgs 17:41)

- a. Division of Solomon's Kingdom (1 Kgs 12:1–13:34)
 - (1) Division of the Kingdom: Rehoboam, King of Judah, and Jeroboam I, King of Israel (1 Kgs 12:1–20)
 - (2) Prophecy of Shemaiah in Judah and Response (1 Kgs 12:21–24)
 - (3) The Sin of Jeroboam I (1 Kgs 12:25–33)

- (4) Prophetic Polemics Against the Northern Kingdom and the House of Jeroboam I (1 Kgs 13:1–14:20)
- b. Synchronized History of the Divided Monarchy to the Elijah Stories (1 Kgs 14:21–16:34)
 - (1) Rehoboam, Abijam, and Asa, Kings of Judah (1 Kgs 14:21–15:24)
 - (2) Nadab, Baasha, Elah, Zimri, Omri, and Ahab, Kings of Israel (1 Kgs 15:25–16:34)

Deuteronomist's agenda: To explain why the Northern Kingdom of Israel and Southern Kingdom of Judea were destroyed, and to show how the religion of Judea was superior to that of Israel (as personified by Josiah's reforms and Manasseh's sin respectively)

https://www.ted.com/playlists/140/how_leaders_inspire
<http://www.georgeambler.com/10-great-ted-talks-for-leaders/>

Quotes from TED talks:

Simon Sinek:

https://www.ted.com/talks/simon_sinek_how_great_leaders_inspire_action/transcript

As it turns out, all the great and inspiring leaders and organizations in the world -- whether it's Apple or Martin Luther King or the Wright brothers -- they all think, act and communicate the exact same way. And it's the complete opposite to everyone else. All I did was codify it, and it's probably the world's simplest idea. I call it the golden circle.

Why? How? What? This little idea explains why some organizations and some leaders are able to inspire where others aren't. (Start with why, then how, then what)

Why: What's your purpose? What's your cause? What's your belief? Why does your organization exist? Why do you get out of bed in the morning? And why should anyone care? ... But the inspired leaders and the inspired organizations -- regardless of their size, regardless of their industry -- all **think, act and communicate from the inside out**. ... if you talk about what you believe, you will attract those who believe what you believe.... People who believed what [Martin Luther King] believed took his cause, and they made it their own, and they told people. And some of those people created structures to get the word out to even more people. And lo and behold, 250,000 people showed up on the right day at the right time to hear him speak. How many of them showed up for him? Zero. They showed up for themselves.

Fields Wicker-Miurin:

https://www.ted.com/talks/fields_wicker_miurin_learning_from_leadership_s_missing_manual/transcript

[Leaders] have drive, passion, commitment. They've gone away from what they did before, and they've gone to something they didn't know. They've tried to connect worlds they didn't know existed before. They've built bridges, and they've walked across them. They have a sense of the great arc of time and their tiny place in it. They know people have come before them and will follow them. And

they know that they're part of a whole, that they depend on other people. It's not about them, they know that, but it has to start with them. And they have humility. It just happens.

Roselinde Torres:

https://www.ted.com/talks/roselinde_torres_what_it_takes_to_be_a_great_leader

I distilled the characteristics of leaders who are thriving and what they do differently, and then I also distilled the preparation practices that enable people to grow to their potential.

Great leaders are not head-down. They see around corners, shaping their future, not just reacting to it. Great leaders understand that having a more diverse network is a source of pattern identification at greater levels and also of solutions, because you have people that are thinking differently than you are. Great leaders dare to be different. They don't just talk about risk-taking, they actually do it. And one of the leaders shared with me the fact that the most impactful development comes when you are able to build the emotional stamina to withstand people telling you that your new idea is naïve or reckless or just plain stupid.

Tim Harford: https://www.ted.com/talks/tim_harford/transcript

the symptoms of the [God] complex are, no matter how complicated the problem, you have an absolutely overwhelming belief that you are infallibly right in your solution... I'm going to keep banging on about trial and error and why we should abandon the God complex. Because it's so hard to admit our own fallibility. It's so uncomfortable. .. it feels so much better to stand there and say, "Here in my own little world, I am a god, I understand everything. I do not want to have my opinions challenged. I do not want to have my conclusions tested." It feels so much more comfortable simply to lay down the law. ..[We need to make mistakes in the right direction] t is very difficult to make good mistakes."

Drew Dudley: https://www.ted.com/talks/drew_dudley_everyday_leadership/transcript

that was such an eye-opening, transformative moment for me to think that maybe the biggest impact I'd ever had on anyone's life, a moment that had a woman walk up to a stranger four years later and say, "You've been an incredibly important person in my life," was a moment that I didn't even remember. How many of you guys have a ...moment where someone said something or did something that you feel fundamentally made your life better? All right. How many of you have told that person they did it? See, why not? We celebrate birthdays, where all you have to do is not die for 365 days .. and yet we let people who have made our lives better walk around without knowing it. And every single one of you, every single one of you has been the catalyst for [such] a ...moment. You have made someone's life better by something that you said or that you did, and if you think you haven't...You're just one of the people who hasn't been told....**if you change one person's understanding of it, one person's understanding of what they're capable of, one person's understanding of how much people care about them, one person's understanding of how powerful an agent for change they can be in this world, you've changed the whole thing.** And if we can understand leadership like that, I think if we can redefine leadership like that, I think we can change everything.

