

Letters to the Next President

Today's Message – "Lead Us, Don't Just Please Us" (Part 3)

Message Study Guide

Introduction

When this great nation began in 1776, it was founded as a Constitutional Republic, not as a Democracy. That simple decision by our founding fathers demonstrated that they feared this new nation would not survive if it were controlled merely by the demands of the majority of the people. The Biblical story of Pharaoh and Joseph clearly illustrates the value of leaders who are willing to lead regardless of the pressures and complaints, and see the future of the nation and future generations even after they are gone. For this reason, we are begging our leaders to "Lead us, don't just please us!"

Discussion Outline

Mr. President, we ask that you.....

1. Have a willingness to ask advice of people you may disagree with!
2. Never assume that periods of prosperity will never end!
3. Ignore public opinion and do what is right!
4. Never base decisions on just the "now" factor. Always consider the future!
5. Be willing to lead us, not just please us!

Discussion Questions

1. What problems do you think could arise as a result of a nation or individual being too prosperous?
2. What additional leadership principles can you find from Genesis 41 and 47 that would be applicable to us today?
3. Have you ever been helped by advice given to you from non-Christians or from people you don't agree with very often? If so, what would God be saying to you through this?
4. In your personal role as a leader, have you ever made a decision that was unpopular, but was the best decision for the future? Were there any consequences? Benefits?
5. Why do you think people have a tendency to become undisciplined in times of prosperity? What measures can you take to correct those undisciplined habits?

Think About It

Many of our problems facing the nation today are the direct result of our unbelievable prosperity. For most of us, life has always been very good. What have you done with your prosperity to look ahead to the future for your families, your church, and the nation? It seems like when we have more money to spend, we are less disciplined with our money. When we have more time, we tend to be less disciplined with our time. While there is nothing wrong with having more money and more time, it is what we do with it that really matters.

Do Something About It!

This week, try to identify areas where you have been undisciplined and also areas where you have been very disciplined. Write down several life lessons that you can learn from these experiences.

Be Willing To Change

"You have saved our lives! Let us find favor in the sight of my Lord." Genesis 47:25