

When God Guides Leaders

International Bible Lesson

2 Chronicles 19:4-11

Sunday, July 29, 2012

“Jehoshaphat said to the judges, Take heed what ye do: for ye judge not for man, but for the LORD, who is with you in the judgment” (2 Chronicles 19:6—KJV).

“Jehoshaphat instructed them: ‘Be careful in pronouncing judgment; you are not acting on human authority, but on the authority of the LORD, and he is with you when you pass sentence’” (2 Chronicles 19:6—GNB).

“Jehoshaphat said to the judges, ‘Consider what you are doing, for you judge not on behalf of human beings but on the LORD’s behalf; he is with you in giving judgment’” (2 Chronicles 19:6—NRSV).

What if judges and all those in positions of power judged and governed “on the LORD’s behalf”? What if everyone who considered their responsibilities toward others, also considered their responsibilities toward God? What if everyone who sought God’s help also studied the Bible to learn God’s ways, and then trusted God to help them when they obeyed Him? What if judges asked God to guide them and help them make just rulings when judging offenders and respecting the rights of victims? What difference might these choices make?

Working as an honest lawyer, Abraham Lincoln earned the nickname “Honest Abe.” As a lifelong student of the Bible, Lincoln sought justice for all, for lawbreakers and those they wronged. As a lawyer, he refused to take a case that would help someone escape their responsibilities or take unjust advantage of others in a lawsuit. Lincoln tried to do what God would want him to do according to the Bible for the wellbeing of everyone. Lincoln never became a judge; however, as the sixteenth President of the United States, Lincoln acted on the basis that God created all men equal. With his Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln abolished slavery; during the Civil War, Lincoln gained the love and respect of soldiers from both the North and the South when he visited their sickbeds and treated all wounded soldiers equally. Contrast Lincoln’s choices with the choices of Judge Stephen Douglas. Douglas supported slavery in behalf of white human beings, and we remember him today only because he debated Lincoln in an Illinois Senate race.
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Thinking Further

1. Why was the woman’s obedience to God’s word through Elisha essential to God saving her from the coming seven years of famine?

2. How is obeying God a sign of faith in God?

3. Why does true faith in God always lead to obeying God?

4. Do you think God still works providentially in the lives of His people today? Can you think of any examples of God’s providential working in your own life or in the lives of others? Would you like to share your experience or experiences of God’s providential working in your life with others?

5. What might happen to someone who settles someplace with the resolve never to move no matter what? What might you say to such a person who says this.

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