

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2021 (177 Years)



Week of July 25th

We will continue sending out this combination of the newsletter and bulletin to keep you up to date on announcements, prayers, needs and scheduled activities for those that are uncomfortable to attend service yet.

Included will be the usual newsletter information along with prayers, scripture and a sermon.

We hope that you can utilize this format to keep up to date while being away from actual services, meetings, activities and watching the online sermon.



Bedford Presbyterian Church
serving Christ since 1844

A Biblically Guided Christian Community,

Loving God, Loving Others,

Serving the World & Growing Disciples

The Approach to God

One: The peace of Christ be with you

All: And Also with you

Prelude

“Assurance”

J. Bert Carlson

Welcome and Announcements

- If anyone would like to help with the Prayer Table that we will have at the Farmer’s Market this summer, please see Barbara Nichols or call the office to schedule a time.
- Prayer time meets in the Anna Latimer room following service.
- Any other announcements are printed at the back of this bulletin.

Call to Worship (unison)

To the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, who alone has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no mortal has ever seen or can see; To Him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

Hymn of Praise

“Majesty”

Hymn 43

Prayer of Confession:

Patient God, we confess that we have often chosen our limited human wisdom over Your immeasurably gracious love. We confess that too often we assume that power and authority are more valuable and more effective change agents than humility and self-restraint. We confess that we value too highly the signs of worldly success, while ignoring the transforming gestures of grace and blessing. Forgive us for choosing to stumble again and again over our own agendas. Open our ears to Your gracious promise. Open our eyes to the power of the weak to change Your world. Open our hearts to the life of abundant equity that is hidden in plain sight. In the name of Christ our Lord and King who became servant of all, may it be so.

***Assurance of Pardon**

One: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Through Jesus Christ we have been born again to new life.

***Gloria**

“Glory Be to the Father”

Hymn 734

Proclaiming the Word of God

Time for all God’s Children

Scripture

Deuteronomy 17: 14-20
1 Samuel 8: 1-9

Hymn

“You Are My God”

Hymn 52

Sermon

So You Say You Want to be King?

Portions adapted from: Biblical Imperatives For Leadership In The New Normal, Contributed by Dr. Madana Kumar.

So you say you want to be king? From my own childhood days, I recall the story of Max, in *Where The Wild Things Are*, who learned that even being king of the wild things can be lonely and was glad get back home to his milk and cookies. From my children's days it would be young Simba, who "*just can't wait to be king*," but who first had to learn that with the role comes much responsibility. Now with that song stuck in your head, let's talk about God's requirements for those who would be king and sadly how few of us have ever lived up to His standards.

But you say, I have never wanted to be king, so how does this message apply to me? Well if you just exchange the word "King" for "leader" or "leadership," you will come to realize that at several points in our life we all get to be king or queen and the leadership choices we make then will influence how the next generation views leadership. Because basically, **leadership is the power to influence others.**

Think about any leader, good or bad, it doesn't matter, whether Mahatma Gandhi or Hitler, Osama Bin Laden or Mother Theresa, Nelson Mandela, Saddam Hussein, Donald Trump, Joe Biden, or Vladimir Putin. Whatever leader comes to mind, ask yourself ***what do they do as leaders?***

The answer is that they influence the thoughts and actions of their followers. How they do it – or should do it – might be very different, which is the topic of today's message. But the fact that **leadership is influence** cannot be argued against. So whether you consider yourselves a "mere house-wife", a student, a teacher, or just another minion in the workplace, as long as you have an opportunity to influence someone, you are a leader. Thus, this message does apply to every one of us, irrespective of whether we hold a title or a position or even a job.

In our Deuteronomy text, God was looking into the future when He had Moses outline the qualities of a king that the people should want to have leading them.

The king should be **God chosen** Not greedy for **power** or **prestige**, or **wealth**. **Humble and Never departing** from God's way

- Most importantly, the people should let God choose their king. This is where we first get the idea that pastors should also be "called by God." Because as God told the prophet Samuel, while people look at the outside, God looks at the heart.
- This godly king must not crave military power, which is why he should not want too many horses.
- Nor should he overly desire international status, which is what the God's warning against having too many wives was about; in that they would turn the king's heart away ... which is exactly what happened to King Solomon.
- Nor should he be greedy for personal wealth; a desire which his position would entice him to abuse.
- This is the one I like: while our Bible says "have written for him," most other translations say that the first thing this king must do after being crowned, is to **personally write out – in front of priestly witnesses - his own copy of God's laws which he is to keep**

close at hand and read from constantly. When you have hand written your own copy of God's laws, you will not quickly forget them.

- This constant reading of God's laws will then help keep him humble, not self-exalting and will also keep him faithful to following God's ways.

Not hungry for power, prestige, or wealth. Humble and closely following Gods' word, these are good qualities to have whether you are president of the United States or just king of your own castle; especially the one about being constantly guided by reading from your own personal copy of God's Word. So let's take a closer, Biblical, look at a few of these leadership qualities.

POWER versus Servanthood: Leadership has always been associated with power, but for what purpose, to serve self or to serve others? Human history has shown us that power is more often misused than used for the benefit of others. Our Bible includes many examples of both the proper and improper use of power by leaders.

The very first reference to the power inherent in leadership can be found in the opening chapter of Genesis, where God blesses Adam & Eve, telling them to "**fill the Earth, subdue it and have dominion over it,**" which according to some people is exactly what has now caused so many problems in our modern world (1:28). Filling, subduing, and having dominion, all carry negative connotations these days. So did God make a mistake?

Not when you realize that God gave humanity this blessing BEFORE the fall, when the idea of "*subduing and having dominion,*" was very different from what we now think in today's fallen world; the clue being that after having so blessed Adam and Eve, God planted a garden and placed them in it to care for it and protect it. Thus, Godly leadership then and now should always be considered a matter of **servicing as a steward for God**, using your power to responsibly care for His creation ; just as Jesus said of Himself that He "*came to serve rather than be served*" (Matthew 20:28). Godly leadership is in using one's power to serve others.

But then sadly after the fall, humanity's thinking became rebellious and self-serving; which is why the Ten Commandments needed to be given and also new guidelines for leadership. The first post-fall guidance for leadership was given in today's text from Deuteronomy (17:14-20). Interestingly, these guidelines are more about what the leader should not do and who the leader should not be. This was in a way a future prediction of how fallen leaders would misuse the "*subdue and have dominion*" command given in Genesis.

We see this potential for misusing the power of leadership further highlighted in 1 Samuel (Chapter 8). Approximately 400 years after Moses, the Israelites having grown tired of being led by Judges (representatives of God), demand of Samuel that they now be given a King to rule over them like "all the other nations."

Samuel initially gets angry, but God informs him that they are not rejecting him as judge but rather God's ruler ship over them. So the old judge should go ahead and give them their king – after warning them how that king will misuse his power.

Thus, in the verses following today's text, Samuel warns the Israelites that their king, will to take their money, their land, their livestock, their sons and daughters to use it all for his own pleasure and on the day that you complain to God about your king, He will not answer.

So God's Leadership guidelines that started with "What to do," after the fall became "What not to do". Then came the prediction and warning about the misuse of power that mankind is likely to experience. History shows that king after king sadly followed this pattern of misuse of power. The first Israelite king, Saul, misused his power to disobey God. David, their second king, known as "*a man after God's own heart*," misused his power to get a wife (as if he didn't have enough). Solomon the third king misused his power to please his wives and concubines, which brought the kingdom to the edge of bankruptcy. And then there was Rehoboam, Solomon's son, united Israel's fourth and last king, who had a clear choice placed in front of him. After he was crowned, the people complained to Rehoboam that Solomon's rule had been too harsh and they urged him to, "*lighten the yoke that your father put on us*."

Turning to his elder advisers, Rehoboam asked how he should respond. They told him, "*If you will be a servant to this people today and serve them, and speak good words to them when you answer them, then they will be your servants forever.*" (1 Kings 12:7) Then asking his own friends for their thoughts and they told Rehoboam to reply,

My little finger is thicker than my father's loins. Now, whereas my father laid on you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions." (1 Kings 12:10-11).

Guess who's advice Rehoboam followed?

It was this remark that split the kingdom apart. Most of the tribes seceded to form the nation of Northern Israel, leaving just the tribes of Levi, Judah and the half tribe of Benjamin, to form the southern nation of Judah. The history of both Israelite nations mostly went downhill from there, with Northern Israel being defeated and exiled from the land in 722 B.C., with Judah following in 586 B.C.

As the elder advisers tried to inform Rehoboam, **godly leadership is not about personal power and privilege but about servant hood and stewardship. You serve and lead for the people's good not your own.**

We see this kind of leadership exemplified in the Apostle Paul's first best friend. On his way to Damascus to persecute the followers of Jesus, the fanatic Jew Saul of Tarsus has his own dramatic "come to Jesus" moment and becomes a Christian. Thereafter, he gave powerful witness in the Damascus Synagogues to Jesus as the Messiah. But, when he returns to Jerusalem to meet with the apostles, they were understandably still afraid of him. It was a man nicknamed Barnabas – "Son of Encouragement" – who stood as guarantor for Paul and brought him to the apostles (Acts 9:27). But Barnabas does not stop there, he also accompanies Paul on his first two missionary journeys; investing much time and energy into helping this new believer grow in his faith and witness. While we know ultimately who becomes more famous, we don't read of any bitterness from Barnabas. Barnabas, just another member of the Jerusalem congregation, was a humble God-fearing, other-centered servant leader.

We don't see much of this leadership in Washington these days and sadly even amongst some of our most prominent Christian leaders. As the truism says, *power corrupts and ultimate corrupts ultimately*; which is why putting pastors up on pedestals is such a dangerous practice. I am afraid that the prestige affects their thinking until with very few exceptions, many prominent leaders fall into disgrace after beginning to rationalize that they personally are an exception to the rules that **servant hood, humility, integrity, and simplicity are key elements of godly leadership** (Humility: Ephesians 4:2, Integrity: Job 27: 3-6, Simplicity: Luke 12:15).

Let's look even closer at this idea of servant leadership in our own everyday lives. When we look around, we can see people who just live **a life of survival**. These people add no value to themselves or to others; they just go through the day because the day exists. Then of course there are the success oriented people who get up in the morning to go out and achieve something new, to attain something different. They want to invent some new gadget, get a PhD, or whatever. These are the types that corporations love and encourage. These are the types we picture as leading **a life of success**. At the outset, there may seem to be nothing wrong with this type, but the problem with success oriented people, is they end up adding value only to themselves and not necessarily to others. But there is one more type of person who wants to live a **life of significance**. A life of significance is when we add value to ourselves with the explicit purpose of adding value to others.

- We acquire knowledge so that we can teach the un-learned,
- We acquire wisdom so that we can help the foolish.
- We acquire wealth so that we can give to the poor.
- We build health, so that we can serve the sick.

There are also many Biblical illustrations of such people: Noah, Joseph, King Hezekiah, Esther, Daniel, and most all of the prophets. There are many places in Scripture that urge us to be **significant**, to be salt and light, to make a difference in our world (Philippians 2:3-4, Matthew 5:13-14, John 15:8, John 15:16, 1 Peter 2:12).

This is the kind of leader our world needs more of. The people of the world are desperately hungry for servant Leaders. This is what they are protesting for right now South Africa and Cuba. This is what they have long been deprived in North Korea, Iran, Haiti, and dare I say even in the United States?

If we look again at God's leadership guide, we will see how Jesus reversed our entire history of misusing of power, turning it upside down, when He gave the "*Not-so-with-you command*" to His disciples

Jesus called them to Him and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. **It will not be so among you;** but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.' (Mathew 20:25-28).

It is interesting to note that there is only one place in the Bible where Jesus explicitly says that He did something to set an example for others to follow. During the last supper while His disciples were still arguing over who would get to be "greatest" in the kingdom of Heaven.

I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

Jesus got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

*After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you **DO** them.* (John13:4-17.)

Notice that Jesus' focus and command was on what we should be doing; leading by example, leading by service.

Here then is the summary of today's message and what you should take home to consider. The idea of "Servant Leadership" is as ancient as Adam and Eve, but has seldom been achieved in our fallen world. Those who have succeeded have only done so through their dependence on God's leadership in their own lives; helping them to develop these qualities of servant hood, humility, integrity and simplicity.

For us Christians, there is no other alternative. Jesus says "**not-so-with-you**" for any other way of leading, or living, other than servant leadership, which He both demonstrated and commands us to practice by His example of taking the basin, and washing the feet of His followers including the one He knew was soon going to betray Him.

Can we learn to Live, Love and Lead like Jesus? As He said, *if you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.*

Let us pray about this.

Response to the Word of God

Worship Song

You Are My King"

Praise Team

Affirmation of Faith

Micah 6: 6-8

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before Him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?' He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Doxology

"Doxology"

Hymn 44

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God in heaven, maker of all things; giver of goodness and truth, receive our gifts and our lives as we present them in thanksgiving before Your unseen throne. Rule in our hearts we pray, this day and always, so that our service may be honest and our surrender sincere and true. Through Jesus Christ our King we pray. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Closing Song

"Rejoice, the Lord Is King"

Hymn 432

The Sending Forth

Benediction (Sarum Breviary)

May the eternal God bless us and keep us, guard our bodies, save our souls, direct our thoughts and bring us safe to the heavenly country, our eternal home, where Father, Son and Holy Spirit ever reign, one God forever and ever. Amen

Postlude

"The Acts of God Are Righteous"

Walther

The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of family members who are now with the Lord, Ron & Margaret Morris.

July Birthdays

Jay Gould- 31

August Birthdays

Fred Scheurer -2

Pat Clarke- 4

Tinkie Avery -10

Dorinda Hopkins-13

Edith Weeks -17

Ann Fowler -27

William Hopkins -29

August Anniversaries

John & Betty Salley -2

Ron & Barbara Saunders - 6

Barry & Tricia Schubert -7

Lester & Helen Heinrich-10

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Here are some of the upcoming activities planned for BPC;

August 8th - Youth Cook-out

August 8th- Session

August 15th- Fish Fry following the service

September 4th- Churchmen concert

September 5th- Aloha Sunday

September 18th- Centerfest

December 12th – Abendmusik



Concerns- July 25th

- Avery:** Tinkie, in special care at Elks Home
- Barnes:** Kim Hedrick- (friend) colon cancer
Joey Hedrick- (Kin's husband) cancer
Timothy Looney- (nephew) infection in spine
Judy- (Eunice's sister) broken shoulder
- Benton:** Linda Crawford- (friend) brain cancer, chemo
Roger- (friend) in rehab
Roger Harris- (friend) recovering
Sue Warner- husband Tony, passed away suddenly
Kim- sister's neighbor- thyroid cancer
Linda- fell, fractured shoulder
- Blair:** Tonya Blair's friend (Shelly Longnecker) recurring cancer
- Boone:** Judy Jockets- (sister's friend) lung cancer
Jim Cutler- (LHS teacher) stage 4 lung cancer
Dennis Sulka- terminal pancreatic cancer
Roy Graber- (Sammy's cousin) intestinal surgery
Garland Craun- non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Casdorph:** (friend) Franklin, wife Linda, cancer, 6 months to live
- Compter:** two brothers- unbelievers
Prayers for friends to come to the Lord
Bob- (friend) Parkinson's
Michael Compter- (brother) heart failure
Tony & Amy Cardarelli- doing better
Steve & Mary- (friends) Mary caring for sister, Steve disabilities
Eric & Jean- Eric complications from surgery, heart monitor
Friends sister- Jan, passed away
- Cram:** Winslow's-(friends of Sally) family & medical problems
Janice Campbell-(friend) under hospice care
Ryan- (grandson) searching for faith
Nancy Holmes- (friend) stage 4 ovarian cancer, chemo, surgery
Gail Mauser- melanoma removed, fell
- DeHart:** Dick Hatch- fell and broke hip
Tom Gilliam- recovering from surgery, doing well
- Eagler:** Janet, in Bedford Nursing Home
- Fleming:** family dealing with addiction and self-esteem
Their children- having difficulties
- Foster:** Joyce Abbott- (former member) cancer, not doing well
- Goodman:** Charles- health issues, heart monitor, dialysis
Randall Sales-(SRHS coach) cancer
Katherine Saunders- (Hugh's daughter) breast cancer
Mike Birts- (nephew) cancer
- Harris:** Judy- not doing well, doing PT
- Heinrich:** Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder
Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems
- Hopkins:** Mark- colon cancer

Kuhn- Kibbey: Nancy Milton- (friend) cancer, Alzheimer's
Jeff Milton- back surgery, aneurysm
Dot- idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, wet macular degeneration
Grandson- alcoholism
Dan Withers- (friend) inoperative cancer

Mauser: Joyce Reese- (friend) health problems
Steven-(son's boss) going blind
Barbara-(Al's sister-in-law) intense headaches
Ernie Davison- (friend) prostate cancer

McGuire: Katherine- recovering from knee surgery

Morris: all law enforcement, firefighters and all other first responders
Forensic scientists who deal with crime
Doris Jean Coble- (cousin) in nursing home
Lyn & Eleanor- (friends) Lyn in hospital, Eleanor, car accident

Nichols: JC (Nephew's son) mitochondrial disease

Saunders: (Ronnie) Colin Bridges- (grandson)
Scott- (son-in-law) doing well

Scheurer: Jim Hedrick- (friend) cancer
Bob Lindell-(friend) prostate cancer
Sonny (son) colon cancer, taking radiation and chemo

Smith: Dorothy Smith- (John's mother) prays she comes to the Lord

Stetson: Clay Ramsey- thyroid cancer
Katy Dubinski-(daughter) friend Michelle, depression

Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems
Duncan Elliston- (fireman)
Bill Gray- loss of leg, cancer
Jessica Canfield- (friend) struggling after surgery

Toney: Karen Hyde-(friend) bladder cancer
Cal Rice- (former pastor) bone cancer, refused treatment
Mike Stafford- (neighbor) stroke
Jim McSarrow- gastric surgery

Van Dyke: Donna Mannel (friend) MS
Eleanor- (Nancy's mom) in nursing home, pray for salvation

Prayers for our nation and our President

Prayers for those dealing with loneliness

Prayers for healing the divisive spirit among our leaders/nation

Prayers for an end of the coronavirus and for those infected

Prayers to speak and listen to those who are different

CARE TO SHARE A PRAYER with a neighbor?

On various Fridays and Saturdays this summer, from 8 am until noon, and Saturdays from 9am until 1pm. Bedford Presbyterian will have a "Prayer Table" set up at the Farmer's Market offering conversation and prayers to all who walk up. We will also be handing out complimentary waters and BPC information brochures. This ministry is being led by Elder Barbara Nichols. **We also need two others to join her each week just to share conversation and pray with anyone who stops by our table.**



Contact Barbara Nichols for more information: 714-822-0216.

Please consider joining in this new ministry to our neighbors and then call Lana at the office to sign up for some dates:

Friday: August 27

Saturday: August 14

September 4th - 7pm at the Churchmen concert

September 18th - during Centerfest

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Thank you for continuing to send in your contributions and pledges.
You can mail your pledge or contribution or you can drop by the office,
Mon-Thurs between 8 am -4 pm.**

Activities for week of July 25th

Sunday: 10 am Worship

Prayer Time following service

Monday: Quilters, 6 pm

Sunday: August 1st

10 am Worship

Communion

Prayer Time following service