



**Sunday, June 27, 2010: Leading**

**Scripture: Hebrews 13:7-19**

**Speaker: Michael Haykin**

**Sermon Notes:**

1. The G8 and G20 Summits raise the issue of leadership.
2. Some people have argued that the Early Church didn't have official leadership; they claim the Church institutionalized over the course of history and developed official leadership roles later.
3. The problem with this view is that it goes against Scripture.
4. Leadership is important. Jesus did not leave His Church leaderless. He is the Head of the Church, but He has also given us human leaders (i.e. deacons, elders).
5. Chapter division and verse division were added to the Bible later in history. This division can be helpful in some ways and unhelpful in other ways. In the book of Hebrews, the topic of ch. 13 really begins in ch. 12.
6. Hebrews develops the idea that we do not need priests because we have a great High Priest who sits at God's right hand and intercedes. (cf. Romans 8:34)
7. Hebrews 13 details what worship should look like.
8. Worship goes beyond singing. Hebrews 13 speaks of how to interact with Christian brothers and sisters, strangers, Christian prisoners, spouses, and leaders in the church.
9. We are called to pray for our leaders and submit to them.
10. Luke 22:24-26 records a dispute among the disciples as to who was the greatest. Jesus undercuts the whole model of leadership in the Roman world when He told the disciples that leaders must be servants.
11. Hebrews 13:7. Who are your leaders? The ones who spoke to you about the Word of God. Elders are those who can teach.
12. It's a blessing to have leaders who can teach the Word of God, who understand how it applies to God's people today.
13. It's the word of God that builds us up in the faith. (Ps. 138:2)
14. Hebrews 13:7 says to remember your leaders – referring to men who have moved on or died.
15. As Christians, we are admonished to think about leaders in our past. We are to remember them by thinking about their lifestyle, the outcome of their way of life.
16. Leaders need to live exemplary lives, to emulate Christ, to be models for others.
17. "Follow me as I follow Christ" (1 Cor. 11:1). We must imitate our leaders' faith, but not their quirks and personalities. We model our lives after them insofar as they sought to reflect Christ.
18. Thinking about the past goes against the grain of contemporary culture and their 'live for the moment' mentality.
19. History is very important to us as Christians. Jesus lived and died and was raised in space and time.
20. Westminster Chapel's building was built early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Many sat in these pews before us, prayed, gave. (John 4:37-38)
21. We need to remember the past otherwise we will be immersed in the present. The present is full of idols, and we are tempted to think that our methods and ways are what people always followed.
22. Samuel Pierce lived about the time of the war between England and France (1700s). Despite the conflict, Pierce learned French in order to bring the gospel to France. Likewise, we need to think of the spiritual need of our enemies and how to meet that need.
23. History is not dead and boring. It is vital to the people of God.

**Application Questions:**

1. What makes a good leader? What does solid leadership look like? Provide Scripture references to back up your answers.
2. What does the Bible say about how we are to view our leaders? See 1 Thess. 5:12, 1 Tim. 5:17-20, etc.
3. Since Christ is our High Priest, how should we worship? See Hebrews 12:28-29; 13.
4. Do I harbour rebellion in my heart against church leaders and authorities?
5. Do I imitate my leaders' quirks and personalities or their faith?
6. What are the traits of a godly leader in government? Do these differ from the traits of a godly leader in the church?