

When Leaders Fall, Everyone Suffers

It is serious business being in leadership, especially for the Kingdom, as we are held accountable for what we do. We have been taught this in the past, but there's another side to leaders' falterings, and that's the fall-out among their followers.

Marshall Segal notes:

“The temptations for leaders are as real as they are for the rest of us, but the consequences are more severe. When a leader falls, all are punished. Not punished for the pastor's sin, but by his sin. It's fair, then, to say they are punished because of his sin. We see this reality, for instance, when God wields Assyria against Israel's wickedness. God punished the nation, “for those who guide this people have been leading them astray, and those who are guided by them are swallowed up”.¹ When Israel wandered, they were being led by the decisions and declarations of leaders, men who sacrificed the good of the people for their own personal benefit.² They were more concerned about their reputation, their success, and their profit than they were for the safety, faith, and holiness of the men and women God had put under their care. And so the flock was “swallowed up,” swept up into the resistance and rebellion, into the pain and destruction of God's hatred against sin.”³

He gives advice to leaders to assist them in recognising that their sin has an impact on those who follow them:

“Faithfulness, holiness, and purity are priorities and necessities for all believers in Jesus Christ, but especially for you. Whether you are a leader in your church, your small group, or your family, when you allow sin to live in you, it will infect those who respect, admire, and imitate you. You cannot quarantine yourself in your iniquity while you're pouring yourself into others through sermons or counsel or influence. It's like trying to filter the coffee back out of the water after it's been brewed.”⁴

When choosing a person to lead you he advises the following:

“[C]onsider carefully if this man's teaching and life declare and demonstrate the power, beauty, and purity of God — not perfectly, but tangibly and consistently.”⁵

Read the full article.

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1 – Isaiah 9:16

2 – Isaiah 10:2

3 – Marshall Segal (24th June 2015) “When Leaders Fall, All Are Punished” (www.desiringgod.org/articles/when-leaders-fall-all-are-punished)

4 – Marshall Segal (24th June 2015) “When Leaders Fall, All Are Punished” (www.desiringgod.org/articles/when-leaders-fall-all-are-punished)

5 – Marshall Segal (24th June 2015) “When Leaders Fall, All Are Punished” (www.desiringgod.org/articles/when-leaders-fall-all-are-punished)