



Hill Cliffe Baptist Church

Sunday 6th April

Leadership is enabling

Challenge for the week! Try and read through 2 Chronicles 13-27 (or to 36 if you can manage it.) Read it remembering that the writer was setting down reviews of reigns not just records. They are like references from employers or for student applications, you have to read between the lines. Read them asking yourself what the writer was trying to get across, what he wanted the readers to learn from it. Look out for irony and unexpected twists and especially what is said about God's expectations from and desires for, both the leaders and the people.

1. Think about what you were, or were not, expecting to learn from the story of Jehoshaphat. Did you pick up anything new or different?
2. The role of leaders in Israel, kings, priests and prophets, was to enable the people, individually and as a whole, to live as covenant partners with God. We have seen in recent weeks how all of us have leadership responsibility towards those we influence. In our case as leaders, we are called to encourage everyone to grow in their discipleship of Jesus, to become more like him. Are we being encouraged to grow in that way? And how can we encourage others?
3. Last week we looked at how important it was to get to know the people who we might be influencing or leading. Talk about what difference getting to know people might make when we are trying to help them grow, or learning from others more about how we might grow.
4. Jehoshaphat didn't try and make himself a sole power source. He knew his people, chose leaders to support them and trusted the leaders he appointed, to make sure everyone was helped to learn and to do what God was calling them to do. How do we, or could we see that worked out in our church?
5. Think about who the people are, in the past and in the present, who have been significant in helping us grow in our discipleship of Jesus. Give thanks for those people. Who are we helping, or could we help, in that way? If we know someone needs that kind of help but we haven't got the resources to do it, can we think of others we might ask to take up that responsibility?
6. Have you been mentored by someone or are you mentoring someone? Does your mentor or you as a mentor, tell their mentorees what they should be doing, or help the mentorees to think about what they might be doing and make good decisions for themselves?