

The Frogs Wanted a Leader

No doubt, you have read or heard about Aesop – either in a high school or college English class or listened as a speaker at some function quoted one of his stories.

Aesop, thought to have lived between 620 and 564 B.C., was a Greek storyteller credited with a number of fables now collectively known as *Aesop's Fables*. *Wikipedia*, the free encyclopedia, says this of him:

“Although his existence remains uncertain and no writings by him survive, numerous tales credited to him were gathered across the centuries and in many languages in a storytelling tradition that continues to this day. Many of the tales are characterized by animals and inanimate objects that speak, solve problems and generally have human characteristics.”

Here is one:

The frogs wanted a leader. They bothered Jupiter (king of gods in ancient Roman religion and mythology) so much with their requests that he finally tossed them a log into the pond and, for a while, the frogs were happy with their new leader.

Soon, however, they found out they could jump up and down on their new leader and run all over him. He offered no resistance nor even a response. The log did not have any direction or purpose in his behavior, but just floated back and forth in the pond.



This practice exasperated the frogs, who were really sincere about wanting “strong leadership.”

They went back to Jupiter and complained about their log leader and appealed for much stronger administration and oversight. Because Jupiter was weary of the complaining frogs, he gave them a stork, who stood tall above the members of the group and certainly had the appearance of a leader.

The frogs were quite happy with their new leader. Their leader stalked around the pond making great noises and attracting great attention. Their joy soon turned to sorrow, however, and ultimately to panic, for in a very short time, the stork began to eat its subordinates.

The purpose of Aesop's story was to speak of two kinds of leaders:

1. A leader who is like a log and allows the people totally to run the organization.
2. A leader who is like a stork, who eats up the people and only takes advantage of them.

(more)

The Bible, a more authoritative source of wisdom than Aesop's fables, makes it clear that the Lord does not approve of either of these two types of leaders. He prefers a balance.

In fact, Jesus Himself taught that the servant leader is the correct model – one who leads by example.

And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant (Matthew 20:27 KJV).

– Beecher Hunter