

In many cultures, kings and queens were enthroned at their coronations, the throne being a symbol of power and authority. But in the ancient African kingdom of Ashanti, in what is now Ghana, the king was not enthroned but “stooled.” The lowly stool was the royal symbol, and lowliness, not loftiness, was the quality that was expected of royalty.

# Wise Leadership

Jesus called [His disciples] to Him and said, “As you know, the kings and great men of the earth lord it over the people; but among you it is different. Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant. And whoever wants to be greatest of all must be the slave of all. For even I, the Messiah, am not here to be served, but to help others, and to give My life as a ransom for many.”

—The Bible, *Mark 10:42–45 TLB*

## “TO WHOM SHALL I LEAVE MY KINGDOM?”

The king of a large kingdom was growing old. He decided that it was time to select an heir from among his four sons, so he called them in one at a time to discuss the inheritance of his kingdom.

The first son entered the chamber of the king and sat down, and the king said, “My son, I am very old and will not live much longer. I wish to entrust my kingdom to the son best suited to receive it. Tell me, if I leave my kingdom to you, what will you give to the kingdom?”

Now this son was very rich, so when asked the question, he replied: “I am a man of vast wealth. If you leave me your kingdom I will give it all of my wealth and it will be the richest kingdom in all the world.”

“Thank you, son,” the king said as he dismissed the son.

The second son entered, and the king said, “My son, I am very old and will not live much longer. I wish to entrust my kingdom to the son best suited to receive it. Tell me, if I leave my kingdom to you, what will you give to the kingdom?”

Now this son was very intelligent, so when asked the question, he replied: “I am a man of vast intelligence. If you leave me your kingdom I will give it all of my intelligence and it will be the most intelligent kingdom in all the world.”

“Thank you, son,” the king said as he dismissed the son.

The third son entered, and the king said, “My son, I am very old and will not live much longer. I wish to entrust my kingdom to the son best suited to receive it. Tell me, if I leave my kingdom to you, what will you

give to the kingdom?”

Now this son was very strong, so when asked the question, he replied: “I am a man of great strength. If you leave me your kingdom I will give it all of my strength and it will be the strongest kingdom in all the world.”

“Thank you, son,” the king said as he dismissed the son.

The fourth son entered and was greeted by the king in the same fashion as the other three.

Now this son wasn’t especially rich, or smart, or strong, so he replied, “My father, you know that my brothers are much richer, smarter, and stronger than I. While they have spent years gaining these attributes, I have spent my time among the people in your kingdom. I have shared with them in their sickness and sorrow, and I have learned to love them. The only thing I have to give to the people of your kingdom is my love. I know that my brothers have more to offer than I do, so I will not be disappointed in not being named your heir. I will simply go on doing what I have always done.”

When the king died, the people anxiously awaited the news as to their new ruler. And the greatest rejoicing the kingdom ever knew took place when they heard that their new king was the fourth son.

—Donald E. Wildmon