

LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM ELISHA #4 The Bigger Picture"

2 Kings 3:10-16

Steve Jobs was fired from Apple. But later on he went back to Apple and helped them in time of need. Our scrip: a devil/a backslider and a foolish believer come to Elisha for help. Shows us a part of leadership is seeing the bigger picture – ministering to others.

I. REALITY OF LIFE

A. We all will have people who we will feel do not deserve our help

1. **People who have not been doing right:**

a. Joram: King of Israel – backslidden b. Moab: Godless c. Jehoshaphat: What is he doing with them?

1. People who have been lukewarm – not helping the work of God

2. **People who have personally offended us:** Said/done things that have been offensive/painful

a. Question motives/integrity b. Falsely accuse

1. 2 Corinthians 6:12 We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us.

3. **People who have failed – or even done damage to the work of God:**

a. Backsliders b. People who have been disciplined c. Rebels

B. But this story shows us a universal principle of working with people:

1. Sometimes circumstances force people back to us

a. 2 Kings 3:12 And Jehoshaphat said, "The word of the LORD is with him." So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him.

2. Our natural inclination is to refuse:

a. 2 Kings 3:13 Then Elisha said to the king of Israel, "What have I to do with you? Go to the prophets of your father and the prophets of your mother."

1. You deserve it! 2. What if I help you – and you burn me again? 3. What if you do damage?

3. This is partly a test for our hearts

a. Is ministry about our personal egos – our personal preferences?

II. THE BIGGER PICTURE

A. The key in life is to recognize that there is a larger cause!

1. **People have needs:** They are going to die if Elisha doesn't do something

a. Often goes beyond them: There were soldiers who would die – their families would suffer

2. **The kingdom has needs:** Elisha ultimately was representing Almighty God

a. The issue is not what do we feel – but what is in God's interest?

1. Would it serve a larger purpose to reach out to/minister to these people

B. This is an important ministry lesson:

1. Ministering to the undeserving for a larger cause

a. Jephthah: Was willing to fight for his people even though they had rejected him

1. Matthew 26:48-50 Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him." ⁴⁹ Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him. ⁵⁰ But Jesus said to him, "Friend, why have you come?" Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him.

2. Sometimes this can be a teaching moment

a. V13 go to the prophets of your fathers....making a connection in their minds as to why they are in trouble

1. Not just pouting – he's teaching: Can you see where your decisions have brought you?

b. This is the balance to simply giving people \$/relieving their problem...

1. Without making them face the issue

III. THE MIRACLE DIMENSION

A. God honors right decisions

1. The will of God is accomplished by men who will put God/His purposes above their personal feelings

a. V21-25 God confuses the enemy/helps God's people to win the battle

2. A supernatural miracle of God

a. Direction (valley of ditches) b. Supernatural supply (water) c. Enemies are defeated

1. Sometimes the miracle is in us: We're healed/change 2. Sometimes it is inside others: They change

3. It provides powerful reference points for others (someone wrote this story down – remarkable!)

4. It causes God to get involved: God's help came only after Elisha was willing to minister