

LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM ELISHA #6 “Meeting People’s Needs”

2 Kings 4:8-16

We see a simple element of effective leadership: Meeting people’s needs.

I. MEETING PEOPLE’S NEEDS

A. Working with people must involve awareness

1. Elisha didn’t simply enjoy the benefits/count her as a number

a. *2 Kings 4:13* *And he said to him, "Say now to her, 'Look, you have been concerned for us with all this care. What can I do for you? Do you want me to speak on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?' " She answered, "I dwell among my own people."*

2. This involves a deliberate awareness: We think – or we inquire how people are doing

a. *Proverbs 27:23 NCV* *Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds;*

3. This involves spiritual sensitivity

a. *VII room/lay down there... VI2 then he said, call this woman...*

1. More than taking a nap: Getting alone with God

b. You feel things off of people

1. Evidence: *Attitude/actions (missing)/behavior changes/they slob out*

2. Sometimes there is no evidence: *But you simply feel something is wrong*

II. PRIORITIES OF MEETING NEEDS

A. Interesting that in the story that Elisha focuses on Gehazi...

1. *2 Kings 4:13* *And he said to him, "Say now to her, 'Look, you have been concerned for us with all this care. What can I do for you? Do you want me to speak on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?' " She answered, "I dwell among my own people."*

a. *Scholars say this was b/c she was respectful – or b/c it was culturally incorrect to speak to her*

2. But the issue is actually discipleship: What we do is more than a program/more than numbers/members

a. Perhaps Elisha recognized the lack of compassion in Gehazi

1. 2 Kings 4:27 Now when she came to the man of God at the hill, she caught him by the feet, but Gehazi came near to push her away. But the man of God said, "Let her alone; for her soul is in deep distress, and the LORD has hidden it from me, and has not told me."

b. If compassion/sensitivity/awareness is missing – your ministry/effectiveness is going to struggle

B. Pastors must care about people!

1. Jesus modeled compassion

a. *Matt. 14:14 And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.*

b. *Mark 8:2 "I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat.*

2. This is indispensable: We must ask God for it

a. *PM: Ask God to give you a burden for souls, and a love for people*

III. POWER FOR PERSONAL NEEDS

A. Seeing people’s greatest needs

1. Not being satisfied with involvement/helpfulness/blessing

a. *I sat a man down from ministry – I see no evidence of salvation! His greatest need!*

B. Hearing from God for people

1. This is primarily a preaching issue: When you preach as God leads – you meet great needs in people

a. *Amazed how often a thought/scrip pops into my head: Exactly what someone needed!*

2. This is a prayer issue: You are impressed or led to pray for people

a. *Regular prayer: Lists...John 17: Jesus prayed for His disciples!*

b. *Special prayer: God knows what they are going through – he puts them on your heart*

3. This is a supernatural issue: Putting people in touch with the supernatural power of God

a. Not about our limited ability, but God’s miracle resource

1. We need to contend for miracle dimension, if we are going to really meet needs of people

1. *Supernatural preaching*

2. *Holy Ghost altar services*

3. *Personal prayer for breakthroughs*

4. *Gifts of the Spirit*