

The story of Gehazi shows us part of leadership is dealing with disciples in negative issues.

I. SPIRITUAL SENSITIVITY

- A. Our scrip shows us the problem of ministry by schooling: Based on years/course credits/passing tests
 - 1. Divorced from character: *As long as you can pass the test – you’re a man of God!*
 - 2. But discipleship is based on a personal connection: *Observing real life: Relationships/work/ministry*
- B. But this scrip shows us the need for spiritual sensitivity
 - 1. There are things that go on in the life a disciple that are unseen
 - a. Gehazi is lying/stealing – and Elisha isn’t there; You can’t be there/keep track of everyone!
 - 2. But Elisha felt something in the spirit: *V26 didn’t my heart go with you...*
 - a. *I sensed something was wrong... or even “God spoke to me”*
- C. This shows us some needs in the heart of an effective leader
 - 1. **Genuine concern:** My heart went with you... No doubt Elisha prayed for Gehazi – thought about him
 - 2. **Connection with God:** God revealed this/God warned Elisha
 - a. *Jesus: I have prayed for you...* b. *John 17: an entire prayer for His disciples*
 - 3. **A realistic view of his own men:** Some men have blindness for their own men
 - a. They don’t want to know anything negative about their men: Don’t want the trouble
 - b. They don’t believe their men could do anything wrong
 - 1. They reject the word of others
 - 2. God is unable to warn them
 - c. Apparently Elisha knew it was possible for his own man to do wrong!

II. CHALLENGING DISCIPLES

- A. It is not enough to sense...sometimes disciples need to be challenged
 - 1. Willing to personally speak to/confront them about what they are doing
 - a. **Inquiry:** *V25 where did you go...?*
 - 1. Getting the facts: Just in case you have it wrong
 - 2. Giving an opportunity for honesty:
 - a. A man who will own up quickly – is easier to work with; More hope for him
 - b. **Rebuke:** *V26 Is it time to receive...?*
 - 1. Bringing correction: What you have done is wrong – not acceptable as a man of God
 - a. You cannot develop men or have effective ministry unless you are willing to confront
 - 2. This was the method Jesus used
 - a. He inquired: *Mark 9:33 what were you disputing among yourselves...?*
 - b. He rebuked: You know not what spirit you’re of...get behind me, Satan!
 - 3. This is what Paul recommended for effective leadership
 - a. *Word to Timothy/Titus: Rebuke them sharply/rebuke with all authority/reprove-rebuke-exhort*
- B. An ineffective leader is unwilling to do this
 - 1. Unwilling to go through the unpleasantness of confrontation a. *Hassle* b. *Stress* c. *Vibes afterwards*
 - 2. Unwilling to deal with the hassle of consequences: *Elisha needs a new disciple!*
 - 3. Failing to deal with issues is not a good strategy
 - a. You fail to help a man see himself
 - b. You allow a man to get to the point of destruction
 - c. You cause disruption for others
 - d. You lose the respect of people: Know you won’t deal with things

III. JUDGING DISCIPLES

- A. Our scrip shows us the final principle of judgment
 - 1. Sometimes men with character issues need to be removed from ministry
 - a. *V27 the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you;* lepers could not be around other people; Removed!
 - 2. Removal from ministry is sometimes necessary
 - a. **Redemptive:** To wake them up – you can’t continue on like this
 - 1. For your ultimate good: You can be reinstated later – as a better man
 - b. **Preventative:** You can’t let men with no character damage the work of God
 - 1. For other people’s safety
 - 2. For other people’s warning
 - 3. Usually what happens after is up to the disciple/the one who is judged
 - a. If they want to change – you allow them
 - b. If they won’t deal with issues – you can’t make them