

LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM ELISHA #11 “Dealing With Disciples”

2 Kings 5:20-26

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

I. SPIRITUAL SENSITIVITY

A. Our script 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 script 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 script 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