

## “TAKING OVER A CHURCH”

1 Kings 12:7

*We had many church changes: new men taking over. Some thoughts to consider from Rehoboam: He was taking over.*

### I. MISTAKEN IDEAS OF CHANGEOVER

A. The reality is that most Pastors don't stay in their church forever

1. Most churches have church changeovers: The church is handed on to another man

a. There can be many reasons for church changeovers:

1. For whatever reason: A new Pastor takes over whatever has already been established

B. When there is a transition – the new man can have some wrong ideas

1. Rehoboam viewed the transition as being all about him – instead of being about the people

a. *I don't want to look weak... I need to establish my authority VI4*

2. He failed to understand the privilege of taking over: *He thought it was b/c he was hot stuff*

a. You are getting benefit from what has gone before you: *Prayer/fasting/giving/outreach/preaching...*

1. *John 4:37-38* For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.'<sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors."

3. He failed to understand the responsibility of taking over a church

a. **You are responsible to the one who trusted you:** *If you blow it – you are violating Pastor/sending church*

b. **You are responsible to the ones who went before:** All of their labors can be damaged/lost

c. **You are responsible to the people who have faithfully labored/invested up to this point**

d. **You are responsible to God:** *1 Peter 5:2-4* Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve;<sup>3</sup> not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.<sup>4</sup> And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

### II. EGO AND TAKEOVERS

A. Human nature has the ability to put our own ego in the center of our calling

1. Have a critical attitude: *What the previous guy did was all wrong/horrible...*

a. *No one was really saved/committed/had revelation* b. *There were no real disciples...*

2. The new man can feel threatened by the previous man

a. You hear people talk about them: B/C they were there for years!

b. You hear people make comparisons: *That's not how the old guy did it!*

c. You hear people compliment the previous guy

B. So because of our ego/insecurity: We try and make ourselves bigger

1. Human nature: We try and make ourselves larger by making the previous guy look smaller

a. *Prov 22:28* Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.

1. *Make your land bigger – by making another persons smaller (With our mouths) To other people/church people*

b. *Remove photos/fail to mention in prayer requests...*

2. Be careful: The first ones to speak bad to you about the other guy will be first to speak against you!

### III. THE PATH OF WISDOM

A. Rehoboam ignored a path of wisdom suggested by wise older men with experience

1. *1 Kings 12:7* And they spoke to him, saying, "If you will be a servant to these people today, and serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever."

a. **Wisdom has to do with how you view yourself:** *If you will be a servant...*

1. Not: I'm in charge – you have to do what I say! 2. Loyalty cannot be demanded!

b. **Wisdom has to do with service:** There will be opportunities to serve/help people

1. *Counsel/pray for/help in crisis – you gain their trust and their love & loyalty*

c. **Wisdom has to do with time:** Serving them – meant he couldn't get their loyalty in one meeting

1. You have to be patient: You can't bypass the time factor

d. **Wisdom has to do with answering the words of people**

1. When you hear people compare/question...how will you respond?

e. **Wisdom has to do with how you speak to people**

1. The options are speaking roughly (pride) or speaking gently (for their best interest)

B. When we seek to be good stewards of what has been entrusted – God goes to work and blesses

1. *Luke 16:12* And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?

a. *Most of the stewardship parables: The master rewards/blesses faithful stewards*