

"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 CHANGE OVER

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 V14

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.'³⁸ 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; ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ 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