

Concert Ministry is something we are re-establishing here in Prescott. My goal is to teach you the WHY, so that you will see and preserve the value of this ministry. Last time we looked at the purpose of this ministry & the unseen benefits. This week we are going to look at those involved: This is not just about talent, though talent is needed, but how this is very much spiritual. I want to look at the Choices For Ministry-

I. UNWISE CHOICES

A. One of the most important aspects of decision making in a church; Is **who** is chosen for ministry.

1. This has the potential to be a *make* or *break* issue for a church.
 - a. There's a number of reasons-
 - i. 1st: Because it determines the future of the church: *Who I choose today will influence What it will be like down the road*
 - ii. 2nd: It impacts the future of Pastor's ministry: *Who will be with him down the road*
 - b. PG made pioneer praise- Yes to help those who couldn't do music, but also *In Africa- Many pastors had relayed to him of splits/damage caused by people put in ministry too quickly*;
 - i. Either they were immoral/or from the platform they gained credibility & undermined the leadership/& some were successful in splitting churches-
2. So, here we are re-digging the wells of this ministry: *And some are eager to join!*
 - a. I can sing/rap/act/start drama/I'm good at being the center of attention... BUT concert ministry is more than talent-
 - i. Its here where Pastors/Ministry Leaders/Churches can make unwise choices-
 - b. See, Once you have someone in ministry- Its challenging to work things out, without causing major trouble-
 - b. So you want to be sure someone is ready for ministry! & YOU (getting involved) want to make sure you are ready for it

B. So we need to understand- *Why would a pastor put wrong people in ministry?*

1. **To Keep People:** *This is what MANY churches do, they give a position, thinking, now they'll stay-*
 - a. But that is a Bad idea- B/c now they stay for the wrong reasons- I get to be...
 - i. They're not coming to meet with Jesus/Change... They are coming to perform!
2. **Talent:** *Hey, they Play an instrument, and WE NEED THAT INSTRUMENT!*
 - a. I Visited a fellowship church that was Carnal as the day is long; people dancing on the platform/people rocking out in song svc./& a bunch of random instruments- WHY? *WHAT IS THIS!?*
 - b. Well, simply b/c they had talent-
3. **Money:** This person has money/& they give a lot of it when they are involved...
 - a. (Baby church in NM) had these 2 religious people running the church (Musicians & Money) if they didn't like something- the Pastor stopped it, *visiting pastors recognized it-* but he refused to admit it was killing his work- that fellowship church is closed today.
4. **Pressure from others:** *Good/Faithful People in the church- Let them sing/play/perform they're really good! Pastor feels pressure Well I better so no one gets mad! I'll be the bad guy-*
5. **Desperation:** *Pastor has NO musical ability- or the people they have lack any ability at all-* so out of desperation PLEASE HELP US! & immediately they put them in
6. **Personal Preference:** *I like this person, so Ill put them there, I like how they do things so- Ill let them*
 - a. Never mind they aren't saved, lack character, unfaithful.
7. **Our Ego:** *We think it makes US look good if we have ministries in place- "Look at all these people we have involved"- and they're good at what they do; We have achieved some look/feeling;*
 - a. In SF at one point- I was leading Songs & playing Guitar/My wife on Piano/and a pregnant girl on drums- when at one time there was a song leader/guitar/bass/drums/2 pianos/singers-
 - b. But, the wrong people were involved! *The main piano player was lusty & later came out they were swingers!!!*
8. So, any of these motivations cause pastors/churches to choose people to minister in the church, that shouldn't be! These are UNWISE CHOICES-

II. THE COST OF UNWISE CHOICES

A. So, Unwise choices will always come back to haunt us- In time they will have a negative effect on our ministry.

1. **Unreliable;** Ministry is a lot of work: & In our time of need/at a big outreach/revival- they wont be there/let down the outreach/let down the church-
 - a. **Proverbs 25:19** *Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble Is like a bad tooth and a foot out of joint.* This doesn't sound like something you want! Unwise choices HURT!
2. **Example:** People reference off of those who are in the public eye-
 - a. So, People will use YOU either as their *excuse* or their *example!*
 - i. Problem: You wont be able work things out in others if those in ministry are doing the same thing!
 - ii. **Phil 3:17** *Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.*
 - iii. **1 Thess 1:7** *As a result, you have become an example to all the believers*
 - b. Who you put into ministry matters- B/c people will follow their EXAMPLE!
 - i So, saying the harder NO to some will actually protect the NC's & those aspiring for ministry.
3. **Credibility:** See, When you place people in ministry- you are saying I approve of them.

a. & This gives them credibility; It adds weight to their words/actions/lifestyle/choices- and when you allow them into ministry, you are actually saying I agree with all that they are!

i. The Danger is: *People with bad hearts will use this as a means of pulling people away!*

b. So; Why give credibility to dangerous people.

4. **Spirit;** A church is all about the a spiritual atmosphere/theres a climate thats created

a. So, When your in ministry- *you minister who/what you are* and a person with a wrong spirit has a greater effect on the spiritual atmosphere of the church/services.

i. Gal 5/1 Cor 5 both points out a little leaven, leavens the whole lump-

ii. This is why YOU NEED TO MAKE PRAYER if you are in Ministry- To work out the funky-ness!

1. It actually doesn't make sense to me how you can minister without prayer!

2. Some ministering with *hatred/unforgiveness/gossip/slander/serving carnal appetites...* But on the platform ministering Jesus?

b. Prayer strengthens your spirit: **Colossians 1:11** being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have full endurance and patience,

i. **Eph 3:16** *That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;*

III. CHOOSING WISELY

A. So, Choosing people for ministry was a decision that **Jesus** took very seriously

1. He knew that the men he chose would effect the entire future of his ministry/influence on the earth

a. **Luke 6:12** *Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.*

i. Jesus prayed; **why?** Because God has an opinion about HIS church!

1. **Acts 13:2** *As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."* God needs to have an opinion about who is at work in his church! Ppl ask about ministry- I answer: *let me pray-* B/C God has an opinion

2. AND: You need to read & understand the vows of exampleship & you pray about where God wants you.

B. So; The foundation of ministry must be Character (What kind of person we are on the inside/when no one can see)

1. Character can only be shown/proven over time (This is why we don't put people into ministry for a minimum of 6 months)

2. Because there are tests coming/outward manifestations of Character yet to be seen!

a. **Acts 6:3** *Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;*

i. **KJV Honest report;** IOW what is their testimony? When other people think of them, what kinds of things do they have to say about them?

ii. Are they saved? committed? faithful? do they demonstrate wisdom?

b. **1 Timothy 3:10** *But let these also first be tested; then let them serve*

3. Who are the people considering ministry? Are you eligible for ministry? What is your character/spirit/lifestyle?

C. Jesus' choices shows us the blessing of choosing well-

1. We cant guarantee every choice will always do well- but Jesus choices changed the world!

a. We cant guarantee every choice, but how we approach our choices will be a difference maker.