

POWER OF INITIATIVE

1 Chronicles

11:4-9

Critical lesson for disciples is the **lesson of initiative** - not only here in the Prescott church but some of you will be pastors some day - learning how to take initiative, push buttons and gain a breakthrough dimensions in your ministry, have profound impact not only now but down the road.

1 Chronicles 11:4-9—4 And David and all Israel went to Jerusalem, which is Jebus, where the Jebusites were, the inhabitants of the land. **5** But the inhabitants of Jebus said to David, “You shall not come in here!” Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion (that is, the City of David). **6** Now David said, “Whoever attacks the Jebusites first shall be chief and captain.” And Joab the son of Zeruiah went up first, and became chief. **7** Then David dwelt in the stronghold; therefore they called it the City of David. **8** And he built the city around it, from the Millo to the surrounding area. Joab repaired the rest of the city. **9** So David went on and became great, and the Lord of hosts was with him

I. THE OPPOSITION

A. The Enemies purpose against our lives:

1. Occupy places and things that don't belong to them

1 Chronicles 11:5 But the inhabitants of Jebus said to David, “**You shall not come in here!**” Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion (that is, the City of David)

- a) Especially true in ministry: Find things don't happen automatically - sometimes its a fight/ Fruitfulness, dominion in finances, breakthrough

2. Hinder the work of God in our church

- a) Our text - Jerusalem was occupied by the enemy / all of davids army marched against the stronghold where the Jebusites sites live

- b) Picture of corporate battle for breakthrough / we pray for corporate fruitfulness and blessing - that God would meet with us in our services

B. There is opposition that stand against disciples from doing the work of God

1. Issues in life that each disciple will have to come to grips with

- a) Where are you weak/ where do you struggle/ what motivates and directs your life

2. The challenge for the man of God is:

- a) answering the question of personal cost (how will saying yes to God effect my life- future plans)

Judges 7:2-3 The Lord said to Gideon, “You have too many warriors with you. If I let all of you fight the Midianites, the Israelites will boast to me that they saved themselves by their own strength. **3** Therefore, tell the people, ‘Whoever is timid or afraid may leave this mountain and go home.’” So 22,000 of them went home, leaving only 10,000 who were willing to fight.

- b) and what is your **motivation for serving God**: this question has to be personally answered by every man in this place

II. TAKING INITIATIVE

A. Incorrect mentalities about the work of God

1. Someone else will do it

6 Now David said, “Whoever attacks the Jebusites first shall be chief and captain.” And Joab the son of Zeruiah went up first, and became chief.

- a) Interesting - David presents this opportunity to every man that was with him / the potential was the same for everyone // **Problem for many is we assume someone else will take care of it**

2. I am not qualified to step out: Intimidation can keep a man from stepping out

- a) Many men can hesitate/ delay/ wait until they feel absolutely comfortable

- b) fear of failure is simply exalted pride - don't want to look bad / sometimes we can step out in faith and not know the outcome / *outreach might not go well- thats ok / ministry might be a struggle - thats ok*

3. I will do it only if Pastor asks me

- a) *Motivation for some: I will respond as long as pastor notices/ as long as I get a reward*

Lamentations 3:27—27 It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.

- b) Ministry is a blessing - but ministry is also hard work/ sometimes unnoticed as well
- B. Danger living your life without taking the initiative

1. Develop an imbalanced view of ministry

- a) I am simply waiting on God to move / **But** God moves through steps of faith

Acts 6:3–3 *Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.*

- b) Work needed to be done - waiting on tables - not glamorous but this was a profound opportunity

2. Assume this approach will work when we get sent out

- a) When you are pioneering - you must be willing to take initiative / fill your calendar / look for opportunities / Push buttons

- b) *The kind of man you are today will simply be magnified when you are launched out*

3. Come to incorrect conclusions about the ministry today

- a) Promotion is only something that happens to **pastors favorites**

- b) There is a discipleship ladder and I'm at the bottom rung

- C. The work of God is accomplished through men willing to respond

6 *Now David said, "Whoever attacks the Jebusites first shall be chief and captain." And Joab the son of Zeruiah went up first, and became chief.*

1. This comes from a challenge

- a) There is the enemy now what are you going to do about it

2. This exposes something in our hearts: Point of discipleship - work through issues now

- a) Issues of laziness, pride, rejection and insecurities..

- b) There must be something in you as a man of God that sees a challenge and says I am going to respond

3. Initiative means we respond to a need

- a) **Ministry:** where is there a need that you could be a blessing in

- (1) *Think about how many different tasks and burdens are being carried by just a few people*
- (2) *Followup, Guest services, Video and sound, security, hospitality, song service, etc etc*

- b) **Work:** *The kind of worker you are on the job tells me the kind of man you are in church*

- (1) *At superior (Level 1- 5) Essentially a level 1 worker waits to be told what to do - Level 5 takes initiative and gets the job done*

III. **BLESSING AND BREAKTHROUGH**

- A. Your life can be a blessing to other people when you take initiative

1 Chronicles 11:8 *Then David dwelt in the stronghold; therefore they called it the City of David. 8 And he built the city around it, from the Millo to the surrounding area. Joab repaired the rest of the city. 9 So David went on and became great, and the Lord of hosts was with him*

1. Ministry is all about other people

- a) Joabs effort against the Jebusites won him the privilege of being the chief captain

- (1) More responsibility, people depended on Joab to do what was right

- (2) True in ministry - can you meet the needs of other people without taking credit for it?

2. Taking initiative will open doors to greater influence and opportunities

- B. Ministry Lessons today become reference points for your future

1. Initiative that brings breakthrough help you in future ministry

- a) When you see God giving you break through today - and while you are here in Prescott - that will greatly help you in future ministry down the road

2. You will create the kind of disciple you are down the road

- a) If you are a disciple that takes initiative - then when you are a pastor you will be able to develop disciples that will take initiative