

TITLE: HELPING OTHERS CARRY THE TORCH

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 12: 1-25

YOU'VE HEARD THE SLOGAN TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAMWORK. WELL TODAY WE WILL SEE THIS AT WORK IN SCRIPTURE. HOWEVER, IF WE ARE NOT CAREFUL, WE WILL THINK THIS STORY DOESN'T APPLY TO US. BUT I WANT TO BE CLEAR, BY SAYING THAT A LESSON ON TRANSITIONS IS AS RELEVANT TO US AS BOTH LEADERS AND FOLLOWERS. IN OTHER WORDS, WE'LL SEE THAT THE ISRAELITE PEOPLE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTINUING THE JOURNEY WITH GOD AS MUCH AS SAMUEL, THE PROPHET LEADER IS. FOR IF GOD DOESN'T WANT THE NEXT GENERATION OF FOLLOWERS TO EXPERIENCE THE KINGDOM OF GOD, THEN WE HAVE TO ASK 'WHY' WOULD HE DELAY HIS COMING?

LEADERSHIP IS ABOUT INFLUENCE. WHETHER OR NOT YOU SEE YOURSELF AS A LEADER YOU DO INFLUENCE OTHER PEOPLE. JUST DRIVE 30MILES/HR ON THE FREEWAY AND SEE WHAT KIND OF INFLUENCE YOU HAVE ON OTHERS. YET, TODAY'S LESSON IS MORE ABOUT IMPACT & LEGACY. AND WE'LL SEE HOW ONE INDIVIDUAL NAMED SAMUEL HELPED HIS FOLLOWERS CONTINUE TO MOVE FORWARD EVEN THOUGH HE WAS GOING TO TAKE ON A DIFFERENT ROLE. IN DOING SO WE CAN SEE HOW IMPORTANT THE GOLDEN RULE IS IN OUR OWN LIVES AND THE NEED FOR US TO PREPARE BOTH FOLLOWERS AND LEADERS FOR WHEN SOMEONE LEAVES OR IS ABSENT.

BEGIN:

Author Sam Chand, *New Thinking New Future*, says 'every leader needs to anticipate two types of succession events: planned and catastrophic.' For today's purpose we will redefine the words anticipate and catastrophic. Instead of the word anticipate we will use prepare, and for the old word of catastrophic we will replace it with unknown. Therefore, our new phrase will read like this "every leader needs to prepare for two types of succession events: planned and unknown." So, why would we prepare for succession?

1. To eliminate fear of the future.
2. To avoid stress, and any confusion.
3. To maintain focus of the group's vision.
4. To continue impacting new people, or to 'be sustainable'.

Again, let me be clear by saying that I'm not bringing this up because I want to talk primarily about organizational change, like that of businesses and churches; but I want us to consider what this means for us as individuals in relationship with each other and God. For example, God saw that it was not good for Adam to be alone, so He brought Eve to be his help-mate. We also read in the Bible that Moses asked God for help to speak and lead, and He sent him his brother Aaron, and even Joshua a little later. You see - **we need each other!**

WORK THE PLAN: 1 SAMUEL 12:14

- HOW MIGHT WE **RESPECT** THE LORD TODAY – GIVE HIM OUR FULL ATTENTION
- HOW MIGHT WE **HONOR** THE LORD TODAY – THANK HIM FOR OUR LIFE'S WORK
- HOW MIGHT WE **LISTEN**/HEAR THE LORD TODAY – IDENTIFY KEY/CRITICAL AREAS
- HOW MIGHT WE **OBEY** THE LORD TODAY – KNOW THE END RESULT & CREATE A PLAN

1. LIVE THE LIFE OF A SERVANT LEADER IN THE BEST WAY YOU CAN
2. A. RECRUIT LEADERS B. TRAIN LEADERS C. RELEASE LEADERS
3. HELP OTHERS TO CONTINUE WORKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE
4. LEAVE THE PEOPLE IN A BETTER POSITION TO SEE LIFE'S GREATER PURPOSE

IDENTIFY YOUR PURPOSE FOR LEADING

- **KNOW WHAT YOU WANT FOR YOURSELF**
 1. SAMUEL WANTED ISRAEL TO KNOW HE WAS A MAN OF INTEGRITY
- **KNOW WHAT YOU WANT FOR OTHERS**
 1. TO KNOW THAT GOD'S LOVE - PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE - IS AMAZING
 2. TO KNOW GOD IS RIGHTEOUS & JUST [PS.89:14]: FOUNDATION OF HIS THRONE

END

IDENTIFY TODAY'S PROJECT FOR TOMORROW'S PEOPLE

- **Q: WHAT IS IT THAT I AM ASKING YOU TO DO?**
- **A: PREPARE TO HELP OTHERS ENJOY LIVING IN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.**
- **A: CREATE A PLAN. WORK THE PLAN. COMPLETE THE PLAN. RELEASE THE PLAN.**

HERE ARE SOME PRACTICAL TAKE-AWAY QUESTIONS FOR LEADERS TO CONSIDER:

WHERE ARE YOU CURRENTLY PROVIDING LEADERSHIP OR HELP TO OTHERS?

- DO OTHERS KNOW HOW TO WORK TOGETHER & MOVE THE BALL FORWARD?

WHAT DO YOU WANT OTHERS TO KNOW AND DO WHEN YOU LEAVE?

- DO OTHERS KNOW HOW IMPORTANT THEIR POSITION IS?

HOW MIGHT YOU ENSURE THE GREATER PURPOSE WILL REMAIN THE FOCUS OF EVERYONE?

- DO OTHERS KNOW WHAT A WIN FOR THE TEAM LOOKS LIKE?

HOW CAN YOU HELP THOSE YOU LEAD TO NOT FEEL ANXIOUS ABOUT THE TRANSITION?

- DO OTHERS KNOW WHO THEY CAN TURN TO FOR HELP?

HOW CAN YOU HELP THE NEXT LEADER BE SUCCESSFUL?

- HAVE YOU ASSEMBLED ENOUGH PIECES FOR THE NEXT LEADER TO SEE THE PICTURE?

GOD WANTS TO HELP US, HELP OTHERS, MAKE A SMOOTH TRANSITION FROM THIS LIFE TO THE NEXT. FROM THE PLACE WE ARE CURRENTLY SERVING AT TO THE NEXT LEVEL OF OUR LIFE'S WORK. BUT HE DOESN'T WANT US TO DO THIS WITHOUT HIS HELP. WE NEED TO FIRST, TAKE TIME TO STAND IN HIS PRESENCE AND TO HEAR HIS VOICE. WILL YOU JOIN ME IN SEEKING THE LORD TODAY FOR THOSE PLACES HE WANTS US TO BEGIN HELPING OTHERS LIVE BEFORE HIM?