

***“I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil 3:14)***

The temptation for pastors and preachers to involve themselves directly in administrative matters is simply too strong. Many powerful messengers have become managers in Churches and ministries. The saddest fact is that because administration is not their calling their performance is awful. The gifting of “apostles, prophets and teachers” is essentially different from the gifts of “helps and administrations” (1 Cor 12:28). Rarely do we come across ministers gifted in both areas. Even in such cases, unless the order of priority is definitely established both will suffer. History tells us that the ministry of the Word has lost more ministers to administration than vice versa.

It’s unfortunate that many senior pastors and preachers have not understood the need or learnt the art of delegation. The plain truth is that they are afraid. They are tormented by a feeling of insecurity. They keep on excusing themselves that they have not found reliable and suitable persons yet. Did not Jesus know that Judas was a thief from the beginning? His faith in the sovereignty of His Father was so strong that He entrusted Judas with the moneybag! He had assuredly known that at the maximum Judas would run away with the money but he could never steal the ministry!

Several well-meaning Christian leaders persuaded me to rethink when my wife and I decided in 1987 to leave the central administrative responsibilities of Blessing Youth Mission, which I had founded, to the secondliners so we could spend a couple of years in each of the non-Tamil States where our missionaries had been placed and minister as part of the field teams. My reply to those well-wishers was, “People grow when you trust them.” I have found this principle working all along and I have no regrets for my decision. Jesus trusted an unsteady Peter with the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. He later proved to be a rock (Mt 16:18,19).

The early apostles refused to abandon their responsibilities of preaching and teaching the Word of God in order to administer the food distribution programme. They urged the disciples to assign this task to seven trustworthy men so their ministry of prayer and preaching would not be disturbed (Acts 6:1-7). When preachers are bogged down with administration, they invariably lose spiritual freshness which is indispensable for receiving messages from Above. Finding long hours for unhurried study of Bible Commentaries and Reference Books becomes almost impossible. The congregations will starve!

**MAY 10**

**PRAYER**

**Subject: Preaching**

*Reading: Acts 6:1-7*

*Memorising: Phil 3:14*

Jehovah God,

We worship You as Jehovah-raah! You are our Shepherd. You led Your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron. We thank You for granting to Your people shepherds like David who led them according to Your heart. We thank You for Your concern for Your people that You removed self-feeding and false shepherds.

We come to You, O Lord our Shepherd, for those of us who are called to be Pastors. Thank You for the ascension gift of pastoring Your Son has bestowed on us. Help us, O Lord, to love You more than anything else so we may give ourselves to feed Your sheep and lambs with wholehearted devotion. Help us to be like Jesus the Good Shepherd so we may sacrifice our life for the sheep. Help us stay watchful lest thieves and robbers enter the fold. Help us lead the sheep by example, by going before them. Help us pour ourselves as a drink offering in our service to the flock. Let us never settle down for anything less than abundant and more abundant life for the members of our congregation. Help us never run away from the sheep, but identify with them to safeguard them when the enemy enters to play havoc. Help us go all out to work for the unity of the Church and never take sides and cause splits because of self-interest.

Father God, deliver us from the lust and craze to act as power-centres. Give us, O Lord, the discernment to identify men and women with special grace and anointing to assume leadership responsibilities. Deliver us from the feeling of insecurity that prevents us from delegating authority. Keep us, O Lord, from all bias and prejudice in selecting the nextliners. Help us overcome the temptation to bring our kith and kin to leadership bypassing the more talented and the gifted. Enable us, O Lord, to quickly overcome disappointments and heartaches caused by associates like Judas Iscariot.

Father God, thank You for presenting before us Your Son as the model and master-trainer of leaders. Help us to closely follow His footsteps in raising leaders in our congregations to shoulder responsibilities in these challenging times. Let us never lose the priority of spending time with You to receive fresh messages for those under our shepherding care.

In the Name of Jesus the Good Shepherd, we pray! Amen!

*(Psa 23:1; 77:20; 78:70-72; 83:17,18; Ezek 34:10; Eph 4:8-13,11-13; Jn 10:1-3,4,10,11,12; 21:15-17;  
Phil 2:17; Acts 8:20; 18:26-28; Mt 26:50; Rom 12:4-8; Lk 6:12,13)*