

Team Ministry - All 4 One & One 4 All

Acts 6:1-7

1 In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews[a] among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. 2 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. 3 Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them 4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." 5 This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. 6 They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. 7 So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

Everyone who wants to experience the blessing of continual growth is going to have to figure out how to deal with the extra workload produced.

1. Number of Disciples was Increasing - this is a time of growth, a time of blessing. As far as development goes the church has hit the place of predictable success, but as I said in relation to my yard at home with blessing comes challenges..

2. Human Need is Rising - and the system that they have in place up till now has worked but it is no longer working. People are falling through the cracks & this is causing people to be hurt & disgruntled. The organization is slipping from Predictable Success back into White Water Rapids because they do not have the infrastructure to cope with the growth.

3. The Twelve Apostles gathered all the disciples - Eg Elders, DLT, Staff - to stand
The leaders engage the people to share the challenge with them... Kind of just like what we do every Sunday as the church gathers.

Not right for us to neglect the ministry of the Word of God to wait on tables... Some have abused this text as a reason to no longer live a life of servanthood but that is not what it is about. All the Apostles were servants for the people under God all their lives, however they understood that things were getting beyond what they can handle & ministry unto God is being neglected because of the human need arising. So ministry to people is going on in a fashion, all be it not good:, but only by starting to rob time from God in preparing to minister to the people. And over the long period of time this spells disaster as you end up doing God's work without God's presence.

4. Choose Seven Men from among you - who chooses the men? You do - the disciples do.
I don't get to appoint anybody until the Father highlights them to me through the body. When someone picks up the towel and serves, God starts to anoint them in their service.

1 Cor 12 - God puts all the parts of the body together & ask each part humbly picks up a towel and serve the others God highlights which ones he has called to a greater level of servanthood leadership. We watch & listen to you - you the body tell us whom God has called to lead.
Qualifications to Look for: Full of the Holy Spirit & Wisdom
Which means - full of God, love God with all their heart, mind, soul and strength - and out of that they love their neighbours/others as themselves.

5. Turn this responsibility over the them - and we give our attention to the Prayer / Word of God..

Once we identify those called - we simply empower & release them to do the work of the ministry... to let go actually means to LET IT GO - no micro managing....Trust the Holy Spirit in them to get the job done - we just coach, mentor & serve!

6. Focus on Prayer / Ministry of the Word - this is what was getting neglected. Time before God was being consumed with the human need that was on the rise & the disciples knew if they did not get it this under control it would soon undermine all the growth & increase that had started. The Captain needs to keep his serving down in the ship and also needing to keep his eyes on the horizon - he makes sure that we reach our destination

7. This Proposal Pleas'd the Whole Group - the whole group knew that this was the only way that All the Human could be met while we continue to grow. It was also the only way that the Leaders - would be able to keep an intimate relationship with our Heavenly Father to make sure we:

- Watching the Horizon for potential situation to be avoided,
- Making Sure we stay ON COURSE to the Vision & Mission God has called us to,
- Make sure that we are being fed the Word of God in accordance with what the Father needs us to hear to prepare us for the coming realities of future seasons.

God wants to work through ALL parts of His church.

Eph 4:11-12 says that we the leaders, the Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors & Teach - should not be doing the work of the ministry For you , but they should be doing the work of the ministry Through YOU... All the parts working together...

Ex 18:19 You must be the peoples representative before God & bring their disputes to HIM...

V20 and teach them the decrees & laws, show them the way to live, and the duties they are to perform.

You Moses should only get involved in the difficult cases. V21 for the rest select capable men from the people, men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain... Or Men Full of the Holy Spirit & Wisdom - and appoint them over groups of thousands, hundreds, fifties & tens..

V23 Do this & you will be able to handle the strain and the all these people will go home satisfied..

It has always been God's heart that his people would all function in service together.

The Smallest group is 10s - that is the principle by which Ps Wayne developed the revelation of Doing Church As A Team...

Fractal - repeating mathematical patterns - Eg Tree, Life

What was the result?

1. The Proposal please the whole group - the community was satisfied & full of Joy because the need was being met,
2. The Word of God Spread,
3. Disciples Increased Rapidly,
4. Large Number of Leaders - be Obedient to Faith,