

LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM ELISHA #1 “Working With People”

2 Kings 2:15-18

Going to work through the life of Elisha. Many of his interactions with people were training of disciples. So we will look at each story from the perspective of leadership lessons. Today: We see the first instance of Elisha's leadership: Working with people.

I. WISDOM

A. There must be wisdom in dealing with people

1. There must be awareness that produces wisdom: It determines our actions

a. *Proverbs 27:23* ²³ Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds;

B. Outflow of wisdom

1. **Wisdom in timing:** *He just took over – now was not the right time to lay down the law!*

a. *Ecclesiastes 3:1* ¹ To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven:

1. *Pastors ask me about tricky situations: How do I handle this...?*

a. *My advice is often: That depends on where you're at in the church...*

b. The status of their relationship with you

1. *If you are new – you may deal with them differently than if you had been there*

2. **Wisdom in working with people at their level:**

a. We don't handle every person exactly the same: You take into account where they are at

1. Where the person is at in themselves: *Struggling/in crisis – in victory/spiritual health...?*

2. This was where the SOP's were at now

a. *Jesus to Peter: Flesh and blood has revealed this to you...not to the others – yet!*

C. Wise leadership is getting people to the point of revelation

1. You can't move people faster/beyond their personal revelation: They have to see it!

II. ROOM

A. The mistake of leadership is helicoptering (hovering over them)

1. *Helicopter parents: Hover over child ready to swoop down to protect from any pain/problem*

a. *Insulating from the consequences/issues of life: They don't learn how to think/work things through/resolve problems*

2. Elisha understood: Discipleship/leadership is not running people's lives

a. Checklists and checking up every moment

1. *CO: His pastors had to text within 20 minutes of service ending; #'s/offerings*

B. Wise leadership: You instruct – then you allow them room to work it out

1. *V18 he stayed in Jericho...he let them go work it out*

a. He did not go with them as they searched under every bush – directing the search

2. There are things you have to find out for yourself

a. Disciples trying to cast demon out of the boy b. Disciples going fishing again – catching nothing

1. Jesus didn't stop either of those from happening: *They learned what doesn't work/what they needed*

3. This is knowing full well sometimes it will not work out

a. He knew they would not find the body – but he let them look anyway!

III. REINFORCEMENT

A. There are after-incident teaching moments

1. *2 Kings 2:18 when they came back to him, for he had stayed in Jericho, he said to them, "Did I not say to you, 'Do not go'?"*

a. *This is not a Na-Na-Na-Na! Told you so! Hah!*

2. Much teaching comes after a setback or mistake

a. *Jesus after the storm: Why did you doubt? b. Wanting to call down fire c. Why couldn't we cast the demon out?*

B. Look at Elisha's strategy:

1. Make sure a man understands: *Makes the connection between the action and the result*

a. *You went – against my advice; How did that work out?*

2. Making sure they understand the lesson for the future

a. Why was he saying this? So they would listen and avoid wasted time in the future

1. *NR: What's the lesson of the forgotten passport? Write it down!*

C. This means that we don't make teaching be about our own egos:

1. *You didn't listen to me – So I give up on you*

a. You still work with people who didn't listen

1. We see that Elisha still tried to work with the SOPs