

Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-10

*“Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us...
Then I said, Here am I ; Send me !” (Isa 6:8)*

Leaders must be prepared ahead in order to preserve the precious and abundant fruits of revival. Following the outpouring of the Holy Spirit we immediately read about the Apostles’ defence (Acts 2:14), the Apostles’ doctrine (2:42), the Apostles’ demonstration (3:1,6,7), the Apostles’ direction (6:1-4), and so on. They had been already mentally trained to organize the thousands of folks who flocked in and the huge amounts of funds which flowed in, without corruption (2:41; 4:4,34,35). How many times we have observed today the loss of moral and ethical values following the increase of flocks and funds in ministries! Charisma alone is not sufficient for leaders, they need character.

During His earthly ministry Jesus was consciously training the twelve for the worldwide ministry ahead. He gave them the finishing touch before His ascension. John’s Gospel records His dealing with Peter, the leader of the twelve. He asked him thrice the searching question, “Do you love Me?” (Jn 21:15-17). Love is both the foundation and the capstone for a Christian minister. When Jesus first called him it was to become a fisher of men (Mt 4:19). Now He commissions him to be a shepherd of men (Jn 21:15-17). We need love both for soulwinning and shepherding. One is love for the lost and the other for the found. Several thousands were to be born into the Kingdom in the next few days. The leader was prepared. Earlier Jesus gave him the keys (Mt 16:19), and now He gives him the “rod and staff” (Psa 23:4). Souls must be brought in and brought up! Jesus also prepared Peter for the cross he should bear (Jn 21:18,19). Jesus is the Master Trainer of leaders.



Thank God for the several discipleship and leadership programmes conducted by genuine Missions, which emphasise sincerity over success, and purity over popularity. I urge young people to read and reread the Book of Nehemiah and Paul’s Epistles to Timothy and Titus. Read also *Spiritual Leadership* by J. Oswald Sanders (1902-1992), the Consultative Director of Overseas Missionary Fellowship for many years. You will never be the same again.

*Anoint our leaders with the Spirit of wisdom, goodness and truth,
Endue them with the Holy Spirit,
Enrich them, Lord, with Thy heavenly grace,
Prosper them in all their labours! (Methodist Hymnal)*

A Prayer Song for God's Servants

Pour Thy Spirit from on high;
Lord, Thine ordained servants bless;
Graces and gifts each supply,
And clothe them with Thy righteousness.

Within Thy temple when they stand
To teach the truth, as taught by Thee,
Saviour, like stars in Thy right hand
Thy servants in the Churches be.

Wisdom and zeal and faith impart,
Firmness with meekness from above,
To fear Thy people on their heart,
And love the souls whom Thou dost love:

To watch and pray, and never faint;
By day and night strict guard to keep;
To warn the sinner, cheer the saint,
Nourish Thy lambs, and feed Thy sheep.

Then, when their work is finished here,
In humble hope their charge resign.
When the Chief Shepherd shall appear,
O God, may they and we be Thine.

Amen!

— James Montgomery, 1771-1854

“Let the Lord be magnified,
who has pleasure in the prosperity
of His Servants!”
(*Psalm 35:27b*)

Paul: “Pray for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the Gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak”
(*Ephesians 6:19,20*)