**BMi SALTS COURSE**

**The Second Man**

There are several relationships shown in scripture that give us insight into the role of the second man - Paul and Timothy, Saul and David, Jonathon and his armour bearer just to name a few.

The role of the second man is to know what can I do, or organize to have done, to relieve the pastor (or person in charge) of the ‘little things’. I seek to free him to spend time in prayer and in the Word. The position of second man is not necessarily one person.

1. Establish that you are called of God, then find ways to support the senior man. To support is to; carry weight, hold up, keep from falling or sinking, enable to last out, keep from failing, give strength to, encourage, lend assistance or countenance to, to back up.

A biblical example is found in Exodus 17:8-13.

2. Make a quality decision to fulfill the position to which God has called you.

Being a second man is a bit like a marriage, *to have and to hold from this day forth, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, till death us do part.*

The position involves commitment to the call of God. God will promote you as He promotes the ministry. The function of second man is not necessarily a stepping stone, it is a valid ministry in its own right.

3. Ecclesiastes 9:10; *Whatever your hands finds to do, do it with all your might…*

It is very much a ‘doing’ function. Matt.20:16 (KJV).

There are no doubt many analogies that could be used to describe the function of the second man. One that I have found helpful is related to a steam train. We have all seen the *Casey Jones* type character, sitting up at the controls of his locomotive, passing through the towns and villages waving to all the people as he goes on his way. From the outside it looks to be such a wonderful picture.

Casey’s got a great view, wind in his hair, hand on the control lever, the sound of the steam engine roaring away. However, there is one other person in the engine. It’s the engineer. What’s his view like? Well, he can see the coal heap on one side and on the other is the furnace. In his hand is a shovel instead of a control lever.

It’s the engineer’s job to keep coal up to the hungry furnace. The work is hot, dirty and tiring. And what of the crowds waving? It’s not the hand of the engineer that they see waving back. However, the engineer is not complaining because he knows that this is his job. This is the reason that he is on the train. If the coal was not being shovelled, where would the train be going?

Being a second man can seem a little like that story.

Shovelling coal for another man’s train. It gets hot and dirty sometimes, it gets tiring, but with a right heart, it is rewarding and fulfilling because you’re doing what God has called you to do.

Then, Casey stops the train, great! the engineer can have a rest, then to his horror, it paused only to hitch on a few more carriages, and more carriages meant more load to haul, and that meant more coal to be shovelled!

**The Personal Life of the Second Man**

**1. The Word**

The second man must be a person of the word of God. Josh. 1:8 (NIV) *Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.*

**2. Prayer**

God doesn’t just need men of the cloth, He needs men clothed in prayer.

**Character Qualities**

**1. Like-minded**

Phil.2:20-22; *For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.*

*For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ’s*

*But you know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he has served with me in the gospel.*

These verses give us a few keys about the second man

*Like-minded* - oneness. Ps. 133 - only in unity will the Lord command the blessing.

*Naturally care*

*Not self seeking* - Phil.2:3 - esteem others as better.

*Served me* - Heart of a servant.

It is vital for the second man to be likeminded with the Senior Pastor. Paul goes on to say some fairly strong words, *for all seek their own.* It is not for the second man to seek his own. Timothy had the same love for the people and for the church of Jesus Christ that Paul had.

Acts 20:18,19; *And when they had come to him, he said to them: You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I lived among you, serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews.*

The Greek for humility is *tapeinophrosune* and means modesty, lowliness, humble-mindedness, a sense of moral insignificance, and a humble attitude of unselfish concern for the welfare of others. It is a total absence of arrogance, conceit and haughtiness.

In the area of humility God challenged me as to whether I was willing to lay down my ‘crowns’ at another man’s feet. The crowns could represent my ambition, desires, dreams, ability, gifting and time. The senior leader must feel safe with and be able to trust his second man.

**2. Encourager**

A second man must be able to encourage the senior leader. Barnabas had the gift of encouragement.

Acts 4:36; *And Joses who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, the son of consolation) …*

The Greek for consolation is *paraklesis* (paraklaysis). *Paraklesis* is coming alongside to help, to comfort, to give consolation or encouragement. The second man needs to come alongside to help, bring comfort and encouragement to the senior minister.

**3. Faithful -Loyal**

1 Cor.4:17; *For this cause have I sent unto you Timothy, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.*

The faithfulness of the second man is clearly shown in the account of Jonathan and his armour bearer, 1 Sam. 14:1-23

*Jonathan said to his young armour bearer, “Come, let us go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised fellows.* ***Perhaps*** *the Lord will act on our behalf. Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few.”*

The armour bearer was still willing to flow with Jonathon even though Jonathan said perhaps.

*“Do all that you have in mind,” his armour bearer said, “Go ahead, I am with you heart and soul,”*

We can be faithful and loyal when things are going well, but it is a challenge in difficult situations.

Consider/compare Rom. 16:3 and 2 Tim.4:9-11

When the senior minister steps out in faith, he must have the wholehearted support of the second men. He must be willing to suffer the consequences if the step of faith goes sour for a season. If there is a genuine relationship between the senior and second, then you will have time to talk issues through behind closed doors.

Luke 16:10-12; *He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much…And if you have not been faithful in what is another man’s, who will give you what is your own.*

Luke 19:17; *And he said unto him, well done good servant: because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.*

The second man must have a deep sense of respect for the leader with acceptance and tolerance for his way of doing things. See 2 Kings 5:8-14

**4. Faith-filled**

Acts 6:5; *And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Phillip…*

Acts 11:24; *For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith and much people was added unto the Lord.*

Praying for a heart for the vision as though it were your own. Inspire faith and vision in your senior minister.

Num. 13:30; *And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, “Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.”*

Vs.31 *But the men that went up with him said, we are not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.*

Joshua and Caleb were men filled with faith.

**5. Endurance - Perseverance**

Like any position we should see it as for the long haul. There are enough people that are short distance sprinters, we need marathon runners.

2 Tim.4:7; *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

Paul was a ‘long haul’ ministry and Timothy was ‘like-minded’.

Rom.5:3; *Not only so, but we rejoice in our sufferings, (tribulations) because we know that suffering produces perseverance.*

**6. Submitted**

The second man must be submitted to God’s delegated authority.

Col.3:17; *And whatever you find to do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

Do not look at the person, but the office. Progress toward leadership comes through mastering support for your spiritual leader.

If anyone says to you, “I want to tell you something in private, but you must promise not to let the pastor know I told you about it”, you should stop the conversation immediately and say to the person, “come with me to the Senior Pastor and let’s tell him together.”