EVERYONE IS A LEADER

Dan Duke

FOREWORD

This work that has now come into your hands is the fruit of careful and lengthy effort. Countless hours of lectures, teachings, and sermons went into it. Many audio recordings were listened to and transcribed. You will notice that the text makes references to CDs, MP3 files, and so on. We intentionally left those references in. We wanted it to be clear that these words were spoken at specific moments and in specific contexts, to people just like you — and that those lives were tremendously impacted and transformed by the content now available here. We also tried not to change the very particular way Dan has of speaking, of praying, of addressing people. As much as possible, those characteristics were preserved. All of this is so that you can practically hear him preach wherever you happen to be right now. May God bless your reading!

DEDICATION

This book is affectionately dedicated to Adriano Medeiros, who for more than fifteen years has been a loyal friend and co-laborer in our ministry in Brazil. Thank you, Adriano, for your love and support.

PREFACE

A boy and his younger brother were heading outside to play. Before leaving, the older boy said to his mother: "Mom, I'd better watch where I go today — my little brother is following me." That is leadership.

Leadership, by definition, means that someone is following you. Whether you know it or not, whether you like it or not, someone is watching you and being influenced by your every move.

It is no secret that the greatest need and the greatest crisis in today's world is a crisis of leadership. Everything rises or falls, succeeds or fails, according to leadership. I have said for a long time, and I believe it: the greatest gift God can give a society is good leadership. You, my friend, are the result of the kind of leadership you have had in your life.

Libraries and bookstores are filled with thousands of volumes — books, articles, videos, live seminars, conventions, and conferences on the subject of leadership — and yet the church withers for lack of mature leadership. Millions of homes, churches, businesses, and governments are failing today for lack of leadership. It is likely you have experienced the abuse or failure of leadership in

your own life. It may be political or spiritual, moral or financial, but I say again: everything succeeds or fails according to leadership.

Is there a solution? Yes, there most definitely is a solution, and it starts with you! You cannot lead everyone, but you are leading someone. The question is: where are you taking them? You are part of the solution to this problem of leadership.

Why did you pick up this book? What do you hope to gain from it? Do you intend to read it all the way through? But tell me — will you simply gather more knowledge on the subject? Or will you accept the challenge to be a leader, a good and honorable leader, starting today with those closest to you? It is possible to know the principles and to be up to date on the latest leadership concepts and still not be a good leader. So what will it be?

Vision, character, integrity, a lifestyle of honor and truthfulness — these are good themes to start with.

A successful leader has a personal destination for his life. He knows where he is going and has clarity about the kind of person he wants to become. He dedicates his life to pursuing the future he desires and moves in that direction. Others recognize the qualities in him and

instinctively follow his example. In other words, a person exercises leadership when he acts on the principles he knows and teaches them, even without realizing he is leading. To lead is the movement — going in the direction of an honorable and clearly articulated destination. Jesus's style of leadership was never to point the way. He said to His disciples: "Follow Me." That is leadership.

The book you hold in your hands is a labor of love and sacrifice by a small group of individuals who believed that my recorded messages were important enough to listen to carefully and publish in this book. The credit belongs to them, not to me.

I have never considered myself much of a leader, nor have I tried to be. I simply sought to be a good witness for my Lord and for those I am fortunate to meet along my journey. Yet I am aware that people are watching me and listening to me; and beyond that, they are hopefully learning by my example: the first person you must learn to lead is yourself. Be true to yourself.

I pray that you, like me, will have your own journey in life. I know you want to be the best you can be. I also know you are always watching and learning from those you respect and admire. But

remember this when you walk out the door every day: “I’d better watch where I go today — my brother is following me.”

CHAPTER 1

SEVEN QUESTIONS FOR EVERY LEADER

Before we begin our subject today, I want to pray briefly with you:

"Father, in the name of Jesus, we ask for Your touch, Your anointing over these days. These are important days. Days of change and transition. Days in which we need Your grace. Days in which we need that supernatural touch upon our lives. These are days in which we need to see clearly. Lord, we ask for the spirit of revelation and understanding as we enter the Scriptures today. Lord, I ask for Your blessing upon every person reading these words. May lives be impacted. In the name of Jesus, amen."

The title of our study today is: SEVEN IMPORTANT QUESTIONS.

Every minister of the gospel needs to answer these questions. Because the way you answer these seven questions will determine the direction of your life, the direction of your ministry, your preaching, and your teaching. The answers to these seven questions will determine your faith and your ability to persevere, your spiritual steadfastness. These seven questions are extremely important. So, if you are ready, let's go!

Question Number 1 — What is God saying to our generation?

Matthew 4:4: "Jesus answered, 'It is written: Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Many people already know what God said in the past, but they are not sure what God is saying in the present. And what God is speaking today surpasses what He said in the past. So what is God saying to our generation?

The first important thing to consider is that you need to identify your generation. There are, at least, two generations in Brazil today — perhaps three. There is a past generation, a present generation, and a future generation. Most of you hearing this study are in the present generation. At this stage of my life — personally speaking, considering my physical age — I realize I represent a past generation. It is important that I identify and recognize what God is saying to my generation. I have clarity on that. I know what God is saying to me regarding my generation. But my having clarity doesn't help you much. You need to have clarity about which generation you belong to. Let's say, for example, that you are around 20 or 30 years old — possibly around 40. You are in a different generation than mine. Now, what God is saying to me in my generation is that I need to focus my life, to dedicate my life to the present generation. That is very clear to me. But it needs to be clear to you too! What is God saying to you about your generation?

I am presenting these seven questions to you, and they are not simple questions. Answering them will require prayer, deep meditation on the Word, much thought, and very serious, very thorough study of the Scriptures. Because you cannot simply give a quick, ready answer to these seven questions. You need to think about them until you have a clear answer.

Question Number 2 — What is God's purpose on earth in these days?

There are two ways to consider this question: you can consider it in a general sense, and also in a specific sense.

Let me put it this way: what is God's purpose on earth in these days for you? That is a very important question! It is a question for which you need to have an answer. What is God's purpose for you today? For me, personally, I understand what God's purpose on earth is for me. And I will tell you what it is. God's purpose for me is to transfer to spiritual sons and daughters. That is my purpose on earth for these days. To transfer to spiritual sons and daughters. That works for me. But you need to answer the question: what is God's purpose on earth for you?

In 1 Corinthians 9:26, the Apostle Paul said: "So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air." What the Apostle Paul is saying is that he knows his purpose. He understands his battles, his struggles. He is not simply keeping busy. He has purpose in his life. What would you consider to be God's purpose for you in these days? This is a question you need to answer. Because it determines the direction of your life. It will affect the way you preach, the way you teach. It will affect your relationships with other people. You need to answer this question: what is God's purpose for you today?

Acts 11:23 says that the Apostle Barnabas was glad — happy — when he saw the grace of God at work, and he exhorted and encouraged everyone to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast hearts.

Romans 8:28 says: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." The only way to know that all things work together for good is when you understand God's purpose.

Question Number 3 — What is God's purpose on earth in these days for you? Or, to put it another way: do you have a biblical concept or pattern upon which you are building? Can you identify your place and position in the Scriptures?

Tradition is so strong in Brazil! The Catholic tradition, the evangelical tradition — these traditions are so deeply rooted in this nation! But we need to have a biblical standard for what we are doing. So I ask you: when you look at what you are doing in your life, can you identify a clear biblical pattern for it? Do you have a biblical standard to follow in everything you do? Most churches are held captive by traditions — whether purely religious traditions or all other kinds — doing what they have always done for generations. That means they have no biblical pattern for what they are doing.

In Hebrews 8:5, the Scriptures say that Moses was warned by God when he was building the Tabernacle. This is what God said

to Moses: "Make sure you build according to the pattern I showed you, that I revealed to you." In truth, everything you build in your life and ministry will be judged by the standard of Scripture. And only that which was built according to the pattern of Scripture will survive.

So I want you to think about this question. And I want you to answer it honestly! Answer it with honesty! Do you have a biblical concept for what you are doing? Most people do not. And without a biblical standard, you will be held captive by tradition, you will be stuck in an old wineskin, and in that way you will never fulfill your potential in God.

Question Number 4 — What is your vision, the one God gave to you? What is the vision God has given you?

Again I say, in my own life I have a clear vision. I know what my vision is. But what about you? What is your vision? This seems like a very simple question, but I want to challenge you today. If you sat down today with a piece of paper and a pen in front of you and took time to write out your vision, what would go on that paper? This is what the Bible says in Habakkuk 2:2, where we are challenged to write the vision and make it plain.

But know this: having a clear vision and being able to write it down is much harder than you might imagine. What is your vision? Some might say, "My vision is revival." That is not a vision. "My vision is to build a great church" — that is not a vision. You need something much more specific than that. So if you say "My vision is revival," you need to think about what that means, and it needs to be very clear to you. Something very, very specific.

Acts 26:19 — The Apostle Paul was giving his testimony to King Agrippa. This is what he said: "I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision." He had a heavenly vision. And what about you? What is your vision? You need to think about this and have a clear understanding of it. And you need to be able to state your

vision in the simplest possible terms. I can guarantee that this is harder than it may seem.

Question Number 5 — What are your objectives?

Objectives are a way to measure your success and your progress. As you move toward a specific vision, you need to have daily objectives in mind. In Genesis chapter 1, we see that in the beginning God had daily objectives in mind. His first objective was to create the heavens and the earth. That was God's vision. And He worked day after day. That is what you see in Genesis chapter 1. Genesis 2:1 says that God's work was completed. That is: God began the process of creation with clear and defined objectives for what He would do each day, day after day. At the end of that process, He had accomplished His objective. Success is a process, not necessarily a single event or occurrence. One of the advantages of working with clear objectives in mind is that your life journey will always be a success! That is because you are making progress every day, every single day. Every day you succeed, because you are moving and directing yourself toward a purpose.

What are your objectives for your family? For your ministry? For your business? For your future?

If you are not clear about your objectives, then your final destination will also be unclear. And if your final destination is not clear, you have no way to measure your progress. It is something like following a road map. You keep looking for signs and markers along the way. And when you reach a certain place, you realize you are going in the right direction. But if you are simply driving around the city without a specific destination in mind, then you are going in circles. And believe me, friends, we have a life to live; we have no time to waste going in circles, nor can we afford to waste our time, nor to prop up an old wineskin, nor to live life without a clearly defined purpose.

What are your objectives? Write them down, so that when someone asks, it will be clear.

Question Number 6 — What do you believe to be the primary thought in the mind of God?

Of course, God is doing many things and moving in many different ways. But there is something that is primary, or central, in His mind. Again, there is a general way to answer this question and a specific way. I ask myself this question in the following way: what do I believe to be the primary thing, the central thought in the mind of God for my life right now? You can see that these questions will require a great deal of time and thought.

I believe I can grasp what the primary thought of God is for me right now. You see, my friend, understanding this question in a general sense is one thing. But that doesn't help me much. Because I need to understand what God's primary thought is for ME right now. I believe I have an answer. It is found in Ephesians 4:11-15. You are already familiar with those verses. It says that He Himself gave some to be apostles, prophets, and other ministries for the equipping and building up of the church. The Apostle Paul concludes this in verse 15, where I believe the primary thought in the mind of God for me in these last days is found. Verse 15 says: "But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ."

So here is what I believe to be God's primary thought for me in this time, in this season of my life. I believe it is to enter a greater level of maturity. It is so simple to say that! But I want you to understand that arriving at this answer was a process for me. Like narrowing things down — as if putting all the options through a funnel. As my first response, for example: what do I believe to be the primary thought of God for me? My initial answer: to impact this nation, to bring revival to this nation. That was my first answer. But I was not satisfied with that answer. As I continued to search my own heart before God, wrestling and struggling with this question, I went through a process. The Spirit of God said to me: "Yes, Dan, I want you to impact this nation. I want you to bring revival to this nation. But that is not the primary thing right now. The primary thing for

these days is that you mature further. Because the more I can do in you, the more I can do through you."

So what I want to highlight here is that the answers to these questions cannot be superficial. We need to go beyond the surface. Because as a person matures, they can be used by God. To accomplish a purpose, to revive a nation, to spread revival, to fulfill their ministry. But there is a requirement for that to happen. And the primary thought in the mind of God for me — and I believe for the Church in Brazil — is this: to enter a greater level of maturity. Perhaps you agree, perhaps you don't. Or perhaps that is not God's primary thought for you right now. But you need to determine what God's primary thought is for you in your days.

Question Number 7 — What is the focus, the center of God's will and purpose? Or we might ask it differently: what is the ultimate or primary objective of God in your life and for the Church?

Again, my friend, this is not an easy question to answer. There was a time in my life when I would have answered it this way: the center of God's purpose is to save souls. And I truly believed that. Of course that is God's purpose. But then I asked: what is His purpose in saving a soul? Is there a purpose in salvation? I said: yes! It is to build and construct a Church. And then I asked: what is the purpose of the Church? The purpose of the Church is to mature people. I asked myself: what is the purpose in maturing people? So that God can have relationship with people. What is the purpose in that? What I am trying to illustrate to you is that what began as a simple answer started going deeper, deeper, deeper and deeper still. God saved me. Why did He save me? He saved me so He could fill me. But why did He fill me? So that He could use me. But why does He use me? He uses me for His glory. But why His glory? Because He wants me to reflect something. But why? And I kept asking these questions and arrived at this simple answer: Genesis 2:18: "The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.'" It is not good for the man to be alone. Jesus is a man. It is not good for Jesus to be alone. The reason He saved me, the reason He filled me, the reason He uses me, the reason I am being matured

— is to provide companionship for the Lord Jesus Christ, to be part of the Bride of Christ and to be an eternal companion for the Lord Jesus. God the Father is preparing a bride for His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. And the purpose of a bride is for fellowship, relationship, and companionship for an entire lifetime. As simple as it sounds, I believe the primary objective of God's purpose is to prepare a bride for Jesus Christ. That may seem very simple. Perhaps you agree, perhaps you don't. But when God began creation, He had one primary objective in mind. I personally believe that from the very beginning of creation, the primary thought in the mind of God was already this: to prepare a bride for His Son. I also believe that the Bride of Jesus Christ is within the church, but is not the entire church. I personally believe that the Bride of Jesus Christ is only a remnant of the church.

We can see a simple illustration in the life of Adam. God said it was not good for Adam to be alone. So He removed only a part of Adam's body. From that small part He made a bride. I believe there is an important message here. That from the entire Body of Christ, only a small portion has this vision. Of course, everyone has a calling. The Bible says that many are called, but few are chosen. The Apostle Paul said he wanted to receive that for which he was apprehended.

God saved you for a purpose. What is your purpose? The answer to that question will determine the direction of your life. It will determine the direction of your preaching, your teaching. The answer to that question will determine your faith and your ability to persevere. My friend, what matters is not how you begin the race, but how you finish. Many begin, but few finish. We see many stepping aside along the way, or getting distracted, or losing the vision; many lose God's purpose for their lives.

I would like to challenge you today to take these seven questions: What is God saying to our generation? What is God's purpose in these days? Do you have a biblical standard upon which you are building? What is your vision? What are your objectives? What do you believe to be the primary thought of God? What do you believe to be the center of God's will and purpose? When you are

able to answer these questions, you will find direction, purpose, and steadfastness for your life, because you will have clarity about what God is saying. You will have clarity about where you are going and about your calling and destiny. God bless you today!

I pray that these questions become something normal in your life. I pray that these questions stay with you, so that you can answer each one. And answer them biblically. Answer them according to the Scriptures, not according to your opinion, not according to your desires or old traditions, but according to the Word of God. We bless you today, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

CHAPTER 2

A LEADERSHIP WORTH FOLLOWING

I became a believer in 1971. By 1973 I was already pastoring a large church in Florida. I pastored a large congregation for ten years. In 1983, I began an international ministry. For ten years I traveled to many countries and cities around the world. In 1993, after ten years of international ministry and a full twenty years of ministry, my wife Marti and I entered a season of tremendous revival and anointing. And for the ten years following that, we literally traveled to hundreds of churches, opening the heavens and releasing the spirit of revival. We never left a city without leaving the heavens open over it. We saw hundreds of churches enter revival, hundreds of pastors renewed. Then in 2003, with thirty years of ministry behind me, I entered a transition in my life. It seems that every ten years, God presents something new. It was during that transition, in 2003 and 2004, that the focus of our life and ministry changed again. It was when the Lord instructed — both Marti and me — to move permanently and come to live as missionaries in Brazil. This was not something I had foreseen. After thirty years of ministry, my plans were to retire and go back to my home in Florida, and spend the rest of my life with my children and my seven grandchildren. Because throughout all the time my children were growing up, I was always traveling. Weeks or months at a time. So I was not a very typical father. I did not have the privilege of being home with my children every day. Jesus raised my children. And He did a good job. But my dream, after thirty years of ministry and twenty years of traveling, was to go back to my home in Florida and spend my remaining years with my children and grandchildren.

In 2003, the Holy Spirit began stirring my life so that I would know that my dream was not His dream. That I was not going to retire and go back home to Florida. That, in fact, I was going to sell my house in Florida. Actually, sell everything. My house, my cars, my motorcycle — everything. It had to go. To you, perhaps, that seems easy. But for me it was a very difficult time. My will clashed with the will of God. I did not know my will was so strong

until God told me to do something I did not want to do. I love you, I love Brazil. But I did not want to live with you. I did not mind visiting you from time to time. But I did not want to live with you. I wanted to live with my children and my seven grandchildren, who are so wonderful! If I had known how wonderful grandchildren are, I would have had them first! I would not have minded the children at all. I just wanted the grandchildren! And every grandparent can tell you the same. It is true! Your grandchildren are more wonderful than your children. But Jesus brought us here. I am not unhappy about it, but it was a difficult transition in my life. And even with that transition and our settling here in Brazil, invitations from other parts of the world still regularly arrive at our office in Belo Horizonte. Just yesterday, for example, someone called from Switzerland. Calls come in from Europe, from other parts of the world. But I say "no" to them. I have an assignment. My contract is here. I am not going. It is probably because I do not like to travel. But can you imagine a person who traveled every week for twenty years and does not like to travel? That is quite something! Do you know who invented airplane seats? They must have been invented before Christ. There is no way in the world you can feel comfortable in an airplane seat. It is impossible. And if you do get comfortable, a very large person next to you will have to get up to go to the bathroom, saying: "Excuse me, please." Or the person behind you, some very old person, will end up knocking you on the head. Then the flight attendant comes and says: "Can I get you anything?" "Yes." "You can get me out of here." That is my sad story. Now you can start feeling sorry for me... No, not at all. We are happy, blessed. But with the change of location also came a change in my ministry. We still love revival, we minister in revival, in the touch of God. But my heart and my passion changed. They shifted toward touching and reaching leaders.

It has always been my method to speak the same thing to everyone. In other words, I could be invited to come and speak to a group of pastors. But I would have the same message for the pastors as for you, as a congregation. I never made a distinction. I refuse to talk down to people as though they were children. I know there are people here who are new believers. And I understand their needs are different. But I think that as adults,

we should speak to adults. And tonight I want to take some time to talk with you about leadership.

God made me a leader. That was a surprise to me. It never occurred to me that I would be a leader of anything. I figured I wasn't even qualified to be a leader. But when Jesus went out to look for His disciples, He was looking for leaders. You know that. Because the leaders accomplished far more after Jesus died than while He was still alive. And every institution — whether a church or a government institution, whatever it may be — rises or falls according to leadership. The greatest crisis in this nation today is a leadership crisis! The greatest crisis in the world is a leadership crisis. And I tell you, dear friends, that when God wants to bless a people, His greatest blessing is good leadership! So tonight I want to speak about some principles of leadership.

Tonight I am going to do something radical! After I have finished my message, I am going to ask for some volunteers — I will call on those who want to make themselves available to God and to the Holy Spirit to produce in them a leader. Leaders today are the hope and the provision for tomorrow.

The first thing we need to know in the church today is that preaching is not leading. Preaching is talking. All leadership is through example. That is the most important thing you need to know. All leadership is through example. Whether with your children, in your ministry, in your business. People will not do what you say. They will do what you do. The people who follow you reflect your leadership. It is all through example! I want to tell you tonight what the greatest need of a church that relates to the world around us is: it is people who are examples. Examples of believers. Can you say amen? I believe that is the greatest need. If someone desires to be an example of what it means to be a leader, I said that one of the greatest blessings of God for your life is good leadership — the greatest need within the church is leadership. As leaders we have an obligation to the next generation, because true leadership is not for just one generation. Listen carefully: a true leader is always looking to the next generation. A true leader lives in the present but lives for the future. The true leader has vision for the next generation.

Especially within the church, so that it can advance. When a leader's vision is limited to his own generation, when that person dies, the work dies too. But a dual-generation leader — when that person dies, the work does not die. In fact, it increases. And that is our hope for the next generation of Brazilians. This explains why I am in this nation — to sow my life into a new generation of Brazilian citizens who will be the leaders of tomorrow. That is my entire purpose in this nation.

We need leaders who, first of all, have authority. Leaders who have true spiritual authority. Someone who knows where they are going. Someone who inspires confidence. People love to follow men or women who know where they are headed. And who inspire confidence in them so that they too can go somewhere in their lives, so that they can be greater tomorrow than they are today. We need leaders in the Body of Christ.

Tonight I am going to call some leaders forward. Maybe you do not see yourself as a leader, but God sees you that way. In truth, everyone needs someone. Leadership is influence. Each one of you here tonight influences someone. Whether your children, your family, your friends. Those who work with you. Everyone here influences someone's life in some way. That influence is leadership. We need leaders who are spiritual. Not all leadership within the church is spiritual leadership. Some leadership is carnal. The problem with that is that carnal leaders cannot produce the glory of God. We need leaders who are willing to sacrifice. Those are the right examples. A leader leads with authority. And authority never controls. I am stunned at how little understanding there is of true authority. The greatest leader in the New Testament — the Apostle Paul — said that his authority was to build you up, not to tear you down. And it was to release you in maturity, leading you toward your future. Dear friends, we need leaders like that. Not only a few people at the church who occupy the platform. There need to be men and women in the middle of the congregation, in these seats, who are leaders with authority. Leaders with authority, with true spiritual revelation. Leaders who are willing to sacrifice, because as leaders we are also followers. Followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, who was an example of sacrifice. We need leaders with

authority. Authority that can only come from God. All true authority is delegated by God to your life. That is the difference between authority and domination. That is the difference between authority and controlling people. Those with religious power always try to control people through manipulation, through threats. True spiritual authority, true spiritual leadership is designed to lead people into maturity and guide them toward the future God has for them. A true leader understands that you are not here to serve him. On the contrary, he is here for you. You are not here to serve the leaders. The leaders are here to serve you. You are not here to serve the leader's vision. The leader is here for your vision, to lead you into your future. We need leaders who are willing to sacrifice. I have no need to impress you. I do not feel that desire to impress. But it is important that I tell you this: for me to be here in your country at this moment was a sacrifice for me. It cost me my life. It cost me my children, my grandchildren. I do not say this to impress you. I do not say it so that you will feel sorry for me. I say it to be an example to you. If you are going to be a leader, it will cost you something. There is a price to pay, a price and a sacrifice. All of our lives as believers, especially as leaders, will be lives of sacrifice. The Apostle Paul says: "Death is at work in me, so that life may be at work in you." Something dies in me so that something may live in you. Are there any leaders here tonight? Does anyone here desire to be a leader? There is a call of the Holy Spirit. A great invitation from the Holy Spirit. Many people, when they pray, say: "Jesus, give me something"; "Jesus, give me a ministry, give me prosperity, give me a husband, a wife." But when Jesus calls His leaders, He says: "Come to Me and I will make something of you." There is a tremendous difference here — when you receive something because Jesus wants to make something of you. He said: "I will make you fishers of men. I will make you leaders in the Kingdom. I will place a future in your hands." I want to tell you, dear friends, whoever will possess Brazil is being decided today. The future of Brazil is being decided today. The future of Brazil is in the balance today. And the question is: who will lead tomorrow? Who will lead the church? Who will lead the politicians? Who will lead in business? Who will lead in finances?

A friend of mine went to visit President George Bush — the first Bush, the father — and he was complaining to the president about the appointments to our Supreme Court that had made decisions on abortion, against prayer in schools. You know that in the United States today it is illegal for students to pray in schools? Did you know that in the United States today a thirteen-year-old girl can go to an abortion clinic and have an abortion without telling her parents? And it is illegal for doctors to notify the parents that their daughter had an abortion. Now there is a controversy over the Pledge of Allegiance because it says we are one nation under God. The Supreme Court has been acting for decades trying to remove God from our society. So my friend went to complain about this. About those men who were being appointed to these high positions. And President Bush said: "Don't complain to me. Give me someone with Christian principles who is qualified for that position. Give me someone I can appoint. You have not pointed me to anyone from the church who is qualified to be in that position." Dear friends, that is the message for all of us tonight. And I could go to the president of Brazil. The president of Brazil could be sitting here tonight. The first female president could be sitting here tonight. We need leaders in this country who understand the things of God.

(Come on, I'm preaching a better sermon than you can say amen! Somebody needs to say amen! Somebody needs to say that's right! Turn to your neighbor and say: "Wake up, neighbor! The missionary is talking to you!")

All leadership is through example. Be an example of a believer! Now we are talking to believers and it might be interesting for you to know that in my Bible, in English, the word "leader" appears only six times. The word "leader" appears only six times in the entire English Bible. But the theme of leadership is one of the greatest themes in the Bible. It just has a different definition. It is called "servant." "Moses, My servant." He was a great leader of the Old Testament. But he was a servant. That is what leadership is. It is being a servant. A leader serves other people.

That is why Jesus said: "whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant" (Matthew 20:27). I am burning with this

tonight. I am burning with the future of this nation! I am burning with the future of this church! I know that a great harvest is coming. I know that a great generation is coming. I know that the greatest apostles ever born are coming. I know that the great prophets and the great evangelists are coming. They need leadership. Leadership through example. Matthew 20:27: "and whoever wants to be first will be your slave." Pastor Nelson calls me his father, his covering, his leader. Do you know what I am? I am his servant. I am more concerned about his life than about my own. I am more serious about his future than I am about mine. I am more concerned about his prosperity than I am about my own prosperity. Because he is my future. He is my prosperity. He is the fruit of my life. The fruit is not in my preaching. The fruit is in people, in the lives of people who are changed. And what I want to be to him is a servant and an example. I want to be able to say to him, and to say to you: "Do what I do, and you can have what I have and be what I am — and even greater. Because the father has the privilege of producing sons of double portion." Sons of double portion are the product of a true father. Your children will be greater than you.

Jesus said in Matthew 20:28: "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." All leadership is through example! That is my real message tonight. My entire message in one sentence: all leadership is through example!

John 10:4: "When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them." Here we have an important principle: Jesus does not point the way; Jesus leads the way. A leader does not just point the direction; he leads in the direction. He does not merely point the way; he leads the way. I am pouring something out for you tonight! Jesus does not point and say: "It's that way." He goes before you. He leads the way. ALL LEADERSHIP IS THROUGH EXAMPLE! People seek a leader to follow. And only a good follower can make a good leader.

So let me ask you tonight: who is willing to accept the call to leadership? Who accepts the responsibility that comes with this call? This text is for the young people tonight: 1 Timothy 4:12:

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example.” Do not let anyone despise you because you are young, but be an example of a believer. Young people, be examples. There is tremendous pressure on you, young people, today. Be examples of believers. Do not just talk the talk; walk the walk. Be an example in the Word. Listen, dear friends, if you say you are going to do something, do it. If you give your word, keep your word. One of the greatest frustrations in this nation, I tell you, is that there is not a week of my life in which some believer says something to me and then does not follow through. That is not being an example. We need leaders who, if they say they will be there, they will be there. If they say they are going to do something, they will do it. Do you hear me? That is leadership by example. Is your word good? If you say it, then do it. No excuses, no delays, no disappointments. Every time. Do you know what that will mean in your life? Everything God says to you, He will do. Because when you respect your own word, you will be able to respect His word. That will open up an entirely new dimension in your life. Be an example in the Word! Be an example in your way of life. 1 Timothy 4:12. Be an example in your word and in your life.

There are four things I do every day. Would you like to know how to grow and how to prosper? Would you like to know how to walk in the anointing and in authority every day of your life? I will tell you how. Four simple things:

1 — Worship every day. Alone in your room, in your car, wherever you are, worship every day.

2 — Pray. Have a prayer life. Prayer is the bridge of intimacy between you and God. The Holy Spirit is the power of God. He is the authority of God. The Bible says He will show you things to come. The Bible says that He — the Holy Spirit — will take the things of God and show them to you. So every day have fellowship in prayer with the Holy Spirit.

3 — I read the Bible every day. Not because I like to read. I like to lead. And my reading gives me power in my leadership. I read the Bible every day.

4 — I give an offering every day.

My worship is a bridge to the supernatural; my prayers are a bridge to intimacy with the Holy Spirit; my reading is a bridge to my understanding, and my offerings are a bridge to increase, to prosperity. The Bible says in Numbers 6 that "the fire on the altar must never go out." The fire will never go out. I tell you that if I live fifty more years, my fire will not go out. Your fire does not have to go out. You should be burning brighter tomorrow. You should have more fire next year than you have this year. You should have more authority, more revelation, more money, more anointing, more of everything next year than you have now. That can only happen if the fire never goes out. I guarantee you tonight: if you see me five years from now, I will be 80 years old, and I will have more fire than I have today! But I guarantee you this: it is not for me. My fire is not for me; it is for you. My anointing is not for me; my words are not for me; my life is not for me — it is for you. Someone is going to mirror your life as an example. Remember: TRUE LEADERSHIP IS ALWAYS THROUGH EXAMPLE.

1 Timothy 1:15-16: "Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners — of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life." The life of the Apostle Paul was the standard, the example for his followers. It was a pattern for other people to follow. His leadership was so great that now, two thousand years later, we are still following his leadership. He was one of the greatest leaders who ever lived. Can that be said of you tonight? Is your life a pattern? We need leaders whose life is a pattern. We need people who can say: "Do what I do and you can have what I have, and even more. Pay the price I pay and you can have the harvest I have, and even more." This is not a declaration of pride; it is being a standard, being an example. People come to my house constantly. Pastors, men I have never met. They call my house and ask: "Can I come and stay with you?" This happens all the time. There is someone living in my house right now. They are leaving tomorrow, Friday.

And there are others waiting to come, to stay in my house for a day, a week, or a month. And this is always the question they ask — they ask it in many different ways, but always the same question — how can I have what you have? I tell them: "I do four things every day." And they think that is a secret. What is your secret? "I worship every day, I pray every day, I read the Word every day, and I give an offering every day." "No, Brother Dan, what is your real secret? That's too simple." Would you like to know the real secret of my life? Very well, I will tell you: I worship, pray, read the Scriptures, and give an offering every day. The only difference between the two of us is that you do not do these things every day. That is the only difference. If you do these things and if you obey Him, the Lord will honor you and your life will be a pattern. I love that!

Hebrews 6:12: "We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised." That is what you look for in a leader, dear friend. Someone who has received the promise of God — and that is also your challenge. Everyone has promises, but not everyone receives those promises. You will lead through being an example. So take the promises of God seriously. Dedicate your life to receiving the promises of God, because as a leader you need to be one of those who has received the promise, so that others can follow you. We need those who receive the promise of God.

Titus 2, in verse 1, says we should speak the things that are consistent with sound doctrine. I pray that is what we are doing tonight. That I am speaking to you things that sound not like mere doctrine. "That the older man may be found faithful in patience." Verse 3: "That older women likewise may not be slanderers, but teachable in good things." Look at verse 7: "In everything set them an example by doing what is good." That is the call of God. Leaders who, through example in all things, show themselves to be a pattern of good works. A pattern is something you reproduce to make something similar. So it stands to reason that only leaders can produce leaders. ALL LEADERSHIP IS THROUGH EXAMPLE. The best any of us can be is an example for others and a pattern for others to follow. That is the call of

the Holy Spirit to the church today. Not only for a few people on the platform, but for every believer.

2 Timothy 3:10-17, verse 14: "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it." Timothy had good examples to follow in his life. His mother and grandmother were believers. And then he became a disciple of the Apostle Paul. He was very blessed to have a good example in his life. Most of us do not have or did not have that privilege. But we can be that for someone else. I never had a father. In fact, I did not know my biological father very well. We were never very close. I never had a spiritual father, someone who could be a mentor to me, someone who could speak into my life. That was the greatest disappointment of my life. But one day God spoke to me. He said: "Dan, what you never had, you can be for someone else." That is when God made me a spiritual father to many. I never had a father, but God made me that for many others. Perhaps you have not had a good example in your life — of a husband, a wife, or a leader in the church. We are not all as fortunate as Timothy was. But tonight you can make a choice, with great determination, to be the example of what it means to be a Christian. That is a decision you can make! Once you have made this decision and you draw near to the Holy Spirit, never allowing yourself to feel discouraged or tempted to abandon His presence, the Holy Spirit of God can make a leader of you. Perhaps you will never be a leader in the church, perhaps you will never preach from a pulpit. That is not the kind of leadership I am talking about. I am talking about being a leader right where you are. In your home, first of all. Then in your church, then in your community, then in your school or workplace. God is looking for leaders. He wants to make leaders who lead through example.

I would like to know tonight if there are volunteers here. If there are those who are available to throw themselves into God's hands. You do not know right now what that will mean. You do not know what sacrifice will be required, but you can be sure there will be sacrifice. It will cost something from your life. But what will it do for you? It will give you a place in the Kingdom of God with the capacity to be fruitful in your life.

Let me ask everyone to stand. I hope I haven't gone on too long tonight. I try not to do that. I try not to preach too long, but I am so full of the fire of God! I have such passion for you! I have paid such a high price for you! I have sacrificed so much for you, that I end up having an expectation that you will be the best you can be. Jesus said: "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." When the prodigal son returned to his father, he said: "Father, I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Let me be like one of your servants." That is the heart of those whom God wants to raise up today: true sons, but who come with the heart of servants.

Lord, we love You tonight, we love Your presence, we love Your fire and Your anointing. And we love Your invitation to draw near to Your table and be fed, to be anointed with fresh oil and have our lives transformed. Lord, I will ask tonight if there is one, or perhaps two, five, or even ten who want to lay down their lives at the altar. And may each of those come to pray with all of their heart, saying: "God, make something of me that I could never be without Your grace, without Your anointing."

Those who want to submit their lives tonight, please listen carefully. Those who are going to commit their lives to be transformed into what God wants them to be — take a step forward; I am going to pray for you. I will pray with you. But before you come, consider this: there is a price to pay. It will cost you something. There will be tears, conflicts, pain, sacrifice, joy, fulfillment — there will be fruit in your life. Anyone tonight who can say: "Jesus, make me an example of what a true believer is. I surrender to Your Spirit. I will never give up, I will never regret."

"Jesus, You are so precious. Your leadership cost so much! The price I have paid is so small; but the price the Lord paid was so great! But for the future of this nation, for the future of the church, for the future of a new generation, Lord, impact our lives tonight in such a way that we will never be the same again. That we will never be the same after this night. Write on the tablets of my heart, baptize me with Your fire, form my life before Your face, because I will never regret it, I will never turn back."

Do you know what is happening here tonight? The future of this nation, the future of the church in Brazil is being impacted! What is happening tonight will touch the future, will touch tomorrow, next year, the next decade. What is happening here tonight is shaping the future of this nation.

CHAPTER 3

A LEADERSHIP WORTH FOLLOWING (CONTINUED)

[Editor's note: Chapter 3 in the original manuscript is a second recording of the same message as Chapter 2, delivered on a separate occasion. The content is substantially identical and has not been duplicated here.]

CHAPTER 4

SPIRITUAL COVERING

Today we are going to talk about spiritual covering and spiritual accountability. This is an important subject that always comes up. My understanding of this subject is a little different from what you might expect. So today I want to take some time to share what I believe, in my understanding, spiritual covering is.

I see that covering operates on four different levels. But as a foundation, let's look at some Bible verses together. Today we are going to read several passages. So it may be necessary for you to listen to this CD (or, in this case, read this chapter) several times. Let's go.

Luke 16:1: "Jesus told his disciples: 'There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him: What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.'"

Everyone listening to this message is, in some way, a steward of something God has given them. A steward is someone who takes care of or oversees something that belongs to someone else. Here in this example, the steward was taking care of something that belonged to the Lord. But perhaps it is your family, your ministry, your business, your finances, or anything the Lord has entrusted to your care. The primary thing the Lord requires is that you be faithful. We see this again in 1 Corinthians 4:1-2: "So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." So you see that faithfulness is required of the steward or trustee. Faithfulness is the number one requirement the Lord Jesus is looking for in His ministers. And for those who are faithful there are many wonderful promises in the Scriptures. Let's take a look at some of them.

Matthew 24:45-47: "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions." We see here that a faithful person is always promoted to a greater level of trust. The Lord is always looking for those He can promote, but promotion is always the product or result of faithfulness. Sometimes people promote you for different reasons. Perhaps you are popular, or wealthy, or talented. But for the Lord, that makes no difference. What He is looking for is faithfulness.

Look with me at Psalm 31:23, where we have another promise: "Love the Lord, all his saints! The Lord preserves the faithful, but the proud he pays back in full." That is a great promise! The Lord preserves, He keeps the faithful. Do you want to be kept? Then be faithful.

Another promise is found in Psalm 101:6: "My eyes will be on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; he whose walk is blameless will minister to me." The eyes of the Lord are on the faithful. Do you not want the eyes of Jesus to be on you? Of course you do! What He is always looking for is faithfulness.

I understand that our subject today has to do with spiritual covering and accountability. And we will get into that shortly. But first we are laying the foundation. Because faithfulness is everything.

In Proverbs 20:6 the Bible says: "Many a man claims to have unfailing love, but a faithful man who can find?" That is a good question. A faithful man — who can find one? Many times we have a very good testimony about ourselves. But the Lord asks how He can find a faithful man.

One of my favorite promises is found in Proverbs 28:20: "A faithful man will be richly blessed." I already told you, this is one

of my favorite promises. That the faithful man will abound in blessings.

Look with me at Matthew 25:21, where the principle of promotion appears again: "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'" In Luke 16:10 the same principle arises again: "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much." So we see that faithfulness starts now. You cannot wait for the moment when you will have great resources. Jesus knows us better than we know ourselves. And He says: if you cannot be faithful with a little, with a small ministry, with a small family, with a small house; if you cannot be faithful in small things, then the Lord knows you will not be faithful in big things. He says this in Luke 16 in the next two verses, 11 and 12: "So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?" Here the Lord makes a direct reference to money. And everyone listening to me today knows about the financial scandals that exist. This seems to be one of the most difficult areas for people to be faithful in. But it is important that you be found faithful in whatever God entrusts to your hands. That includes your money. Or, we might say, the Lord's money. Because if you cannot be faithful with money — which is worldly wealth — then Jesus says He cannot entrust you with true, eternal riches. The way you manage your financial life is very important. So you can see that we are examining here what it means to be faithful.

Let's look at a verse that refers to someone who is unfaithful. Proverbs 25:19: "Like a bad tooth or a lame foot is reliance on the unfaithful in times of trouble." Basically that means the person is useless. An unfaithful person is useless to the Kingdom of God, of no value.

Let us now enter specifically into our subject today, which is the four levels of spiritual covering and accountability.

Look with me at Luke 16:1-2: "Jesus told his disciples: 'There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him: What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.'" This will surprise you, but here it is: the highest level of spiritual covering and accountability is to the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. I will say that again: the first level, the highest level of spiritual covering, is to Jesus Christ. And the reason I say that is because if you are not faithful to Jesus, nothing else matters. If you are not faithful to Jesus Christ, the covering of a man means nothing. So the highest and first level of spiritual covering must come from Jesus. My friend, if Jesus is not covering your life, if Jesus is not keeping you, if Jesus is not promoting you, there is nothing a man can do for you. And to think that you have the covering of a man, when you are unfaithful to Jesus, means nothing at all. We will all stand before Jesus. We will all give an account of what He entrusted to us. This is something you need to establish very firmly in your life. It is popular today to have spiritual covering. This gives people a false sense of security. But, my friend, you need to be right before Jesus. He is the One who sees whether you are faithful or not. And He is the One who sees whether you are unfaithful. As strange as it may seem to you, from my perspective, this is the highest level of spiritual covering.

The second level of spiritual covering may surprise you just as much as the first. Because it has to do with yourself. Perhaps that sounds strange to you. But you need to be accountable to yourself. Let's look at Acts 24:14-16: "However, I admit that I worship the God of our fathers as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect. I believe everything that agrees with the Law and that is written in the Prophets, and I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man." The Apostle Paul concludes that statement by saying "I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God." So the Apostle Paul says he is accountable to himself. As strange as it may seem to say that, it is true. It is true for this reason: if you do not have personal integrity or a sense of honor, you can hide anything from your

family, from your closest friends. Everyone has a hidden life that no one sees except themselves. So a man of integrity will hold himself accountable.

In my own life I follow certain rules. Those who know me know that I spend a great deal of time alone in hotels, with no one watching me, observing me; no one sees what I am doing, but Jesus sees, and I myself also see. That is, I need to be responsible for my own life. I can deceive other people, but I cannot deceive myself. That is what the Apostle Paul was saying when he said "I strive always to keep my conscience clear before both God and man." So, before we go on, let me tell you that if you do not have the covering that comes from Jesus, then the covering of a man — even a famous man — means nothing. In fact, it may even be worse. Because it can become a deception and open doors for demons to enter your life. True spiritual covering only exists where there is personal integrity and true relationship. Anything else is meaningless.

Let's look at the third level of covering and accountability. I believe it is the person who knows you best. It could be your wife, or your husband, or someone very close to you in your life. Your wife, for example: she knows you better than anyone. And she sees how you live, how you conduct yourself in the most important part of your life — your home. I tell you that blessed is the man who has his wife's testimony that he is a man of God. Blessed is the man who has his children's testimony that he is a man of God in his home. We have heard several accounts of famous, even anointed men, who failed in their homes. Their children are prodigals, they are rebels. Their wife is oppressed and depressed. I do not want to condemn anyone, but it is a principle of Scripture. If we are going to talk about spiritual covering and accountability in ministry, then we need to deal with and face real issues. This is not a game. This is not something to be treated lightly.

Look with me at 1 Timothy 3:1-7. This is specifically addressed to leaders in the Body of Christ and gives the clearest possible qualifications. I do not know why these details are so often ignored. One answer would be that men promote other men, and

they generally do so for the wrong reasons. Sometimes men are promoted because they are wealthy or because they give large sums of money to the church. With no consideration whatsoever for the way they live at home. With no consideration for their personal life or their integrity. 1 Timothy 3:1-7: "Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap." At the time of this recording, Marti and I had just celebrated, that week, thirty-seven years of marriage. Marti is one of the most important spiritual coverings of my life. She knows me better than anyone. I depend on her covering and I am accountable to her. This is a point of safety for me. Do you remember when God said to Adam: "It is not good for the man to be alone," and that He would give a helper, a helpmeet to him? One of the Hebrew words for helper is "covering." So the relationship between husband and wife is very critical. It is very important. And I believe it is the third level of accountability and spiritual covering. Because these are the people who know us best.

Finally, the fourth level of spiritual covering and accountability. It is interesting, because in the way most people think, this would be the first level. Many people think that the covering of a man is the most important. But I believe it is quite the opposite. I believe the covering of another man or woman is the lowest level. I am not saying here that it is not important. It is important, but it needs to be real. The fourth level of accountability and spiritual covering is in relation to mature men and women who will be over your life, covering your life. We see this clearly in Hebrews 13:17: "Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who

must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you." Everyone has someone who is over their life, in the Lord. There will always be someone who has gone ahead or risen higher than you. We need to value those who have walked where we have not yet walked. That does not make those people superior to you. And they certainly should not be worshipped. Those who are over you should be seeking your well-being and should be serving you. Your spiritual covering will never take advantage of you or make personal demands — even unreasonable ones — on your life. A spiritual covering will not take advantage of your money and will never ask anything of you that would cause you to violate your integrity or your conscience. A spiritual covering is simply someone who is to care for your life. This makes relationships necessary. How can you have the spiritual covering of someone you do not know? There can be no truth in that. Because accountability is required. And for accountability to exist, relationship must exist. So yes, I believe in ministerial accountability. Someone who will help you make the right decisions. Someone who will help you develop values for your life. But in reality, if you do not want to submit, there is nothing a spiritual covering can do. A spiritual covering is simply someone who will walk alongside you. Spiritual covering and accountability are important, but their meaning needs to be understood. And you need to understand what the objectives of spiritual covering are.

So, whether your spiritual covering is the Lord, or yourself being accountable to yourself, or your spouse, or your brothers and sisters in the faith — all have the same responsibility, which is to help you develop and mature as a man or woman of God. They do this when they help you develop a value system. A value system by which you live in relation to God, to yourself, and to others. It is very easy for there to be abuse in leadership. We have seen much of it, where spiritual fathers become like little gods. Or pastors become like dictators of a small kingdom, only promoting themselves. But true spiritual covering was very well explained by King David in 2 Samuel 23:3-4: "The God of Israel spoke, the Rock of Israel said to me: 'When one rules over men in righteousness, when he rules in the fear of God, he is like the

light of morning at sunrise on a cloudless morning, like the brightness after rain that brings the grass from the earth.'" What does this mean? It means that good leadership will help you see with clarity, will help you make good decisions, will help you develop discipline along with character and integrity, as you develop the core values for your life.

Perhaps you are surprised by this study. Perhaps you thought that spiritual covering was something simpler. That you could simply choose a person — maybe someone on the other side of your country, or someone whose book you read, or whose CD you listened to — but there is much more to it than that. First, you need to be faithful to Jesus. Second, you need to be faithful to yourself. You need to establish discipline for yourself. If you cannot do that, not even your wife can do much for you. And of course, you need to build good relationships. Relationships with those who are closest to you. And finally, God will give you good relationships — a man or woman of God who will walk with you, pray for you, believe in you, and help you.

As long as the other areas are in order, I trust that this study has been a blessing to you. We would like to invite you to contact our office to find other message CDs that will be a blessing in your life.

Have a wonderful day! God bless you!

CHAPTER 5

HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR PLACE

I am going to ask everyone to stand for just a moment, please. Let's invite our blessed Jesus to come here and do whatever He wants to do.

"Lord, we did not come here today to see any man. We came here to see Jesus and to receive His touch. Come, Lord Jesus, and do what You want to do. Touch whoever You want to touch today. And, Lord, we pray that no one will leave the same way they came; rather, that every life may be touched today. Lord, we are so hungry in this place!"

Is anyone hungry here today? Well, glory to God! The table is set, but someone needs to give Jesus a sacrifice. What do you think of a sacrifice of praise? Come on — a sacrifice of praise! What does joy sound like? Come on! Give Him a sacrifice of praise! It is true that Jesus loves everybody! But the truth is He likes happy people! Amen! I know that Jesus loves me! But I want Him to like me too! It's not the same thing. Jesus likes cheerful people! Are you happy today? Then turn and give your neighbor a smile. Tell your neighbor: "You look better when you smile!" Everyone looks better when they smile. If your husband is here, say to him: You look so much better when you smile. Tell your husband: You need to smile more. I'm smiling! Ladies, tell your husbands: every time you hand me the credit card, smile at me! Smile with that credit card! "Oh, Jesus, You are so wonderful here today! We thank You for Your presence! We are so grateful for Your presence! So grateful for the anointing! We are so grateful today!"

I told you last night something I truly believe. The number one thing Jesus responds to is our gratitude. Give thanks to the Lord. Maybe you do not classify yourself as a person of great faith. I know that for many people faith is a mystery. It should not be a mystery. Faith simply means trust. Trust in the One who spoke. If you feel you are a man or woman of little faith, do not worry

about it. You just need to be grateful. Just say to Jesus every day, twenty times during the day: Thank You, Jesus! Thank You, Lord! I am so grateful, even for the things I do not have; I am grateful for what I do have. So right now think of five things you are grateful for. That should be easy for you. Things you can think of that you are grateful for. What about your salvation? What do you feel when you remember that you were lost, steeped in your sins? When you were a foreigner to the people of Israel and had no hope at all? Then Jesus came to you. You did not come to Jesus. He came to you. Because the Bible says that no one can come to Him unless His Father draws them. I am so happy that I accepted Jesus! But I am even happier that He accepted me! I feel great today!

Well, turn and hug two or three more people! Tell them Jesus loves them. Tell them you like them too! ("I like you, Dan!") That's it — hug two or three more people today! Bless someone, speak to someone! There are other people here from the United States, right? Are there others here from the United States? Did you bring your Bibles today? Can I see your Bibles? You can hug your Bible. You can hug your iPhone if you didn't bring your Bible.

I was recently at a conference at The Morning Star, and I said to the people there: "Hug your Bible and say to it: I love you, Bible!" Rick Joyner was there. He uses a computer. And he said: "I love you, Toshiba." And he said: "Oh my, now we have a new controversy. They heard the preacher saying: I love you, Toshiba. And everyone knows that's not his wife!" Hallelujah! (laughter…) We greet you this morning in the precious name of Jesus! It is a tremendous pleasure to be here with you this morning. Some city names here in Brazil… are very complicated. There was one city I visited where it took me three months to learn how to say the name: Caraguatatuba!

Exodus 40. Let's dive right in and look at some Scriptures. Tell your neighbor: "I love the Word of God!" Tell your neighbor: "The Word of God saved my life! Saved my marriage! Saved my ministry! Saved my checkbook!" Some checkbooks here still need to be saved…

Exodus 40:32-34. Let me explain what is happening in this text: we see here that verse 34 speaks of the result of something. So in the thirty-three verses preceding it, something happened. And then when we arrive at verse 34, something happened as a result. Let's read and see what the result was. What I am going to do here is "reverse" my message. I am going to preach the end first and then we will go back to the beginning. Okay? Here we go. Verse 34: "Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting." Tell your neighbor: the cloud came down! The cloud came! How many here think that is a happy ending? That is a good result, isn't it — when the cloud comes? Tell your neighbor: "I love the cloud! I want the cloud to come!" The text says: "and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle!" I already love this message! Don't you? The cloud came and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

Verse 35: "Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had settled upon it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out."

Verse 38: "So the cloud of the Lord was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel during all their travels." That certainly is a good definition of revival. It is a good biblical definition of revival, is it not? The cloud of His presence covering the tabernacle; the glory came and then the people moved forward on their journey. I think that is what all of us are seeking. Isn't that the desire of your ministry, the desire of your church, the desire of your family? The desire for your children? That the cloud of God's presence would cover you and the glory of the Lord be revealed? Then you would not even need to go to your church anymore. Some of you don't even like going to church… (laughter…) So you wouldn't even need to go. Because the glory would already have been revealed. Well, maybe that is a bit extreme… Erase that from the CD… (laughter…)

But the glory was there. I think we are all very clear about our objectives. You are very clear about the objectives and goals of

your ministry. And that objective is a great season of revival — for the cloud of God to come and cover the tabernacle. Isn't that what you desire? Which is it? Are there many Methodists here this morning? Where are the Pentecostals? That's better... (laughter...) Isn't that what you desire? That the glory of God would come? That is what we desire. But, honestly, my friends, many times as leaders, when we are clear about a goal, we are not yet very clear about the process. That is where the first 33 verses come in. The sequence of events that must happen beforehand, in order to bring about the result, so that only then will the cloud of God pour out over the tabernacle. So in truth, these are simple principles, but they cannot be bypassed.

There are two ways to live life and live your ministry. One is by preferences and the other is by principles. We need to be a people of principles. Because the problem with Israel — at least in the Old Testament era — was that they did what was right in their own eyes. They had the Law of God, but they still chose the wrong path. The path that seemed right to them. Perhaps it was convenient, or perhaps it was the more popular path. And there is a great deal of pressure today on every leader to do what is popular. But I will tell you that what is popular today is probably not God's principle. And even if it is popular today, it will not be popular next week, or next month. And with that, the Church of God keeps going in circles, chasing popular things, without making much real progress. But we have an opportunity now, in our generation, in your generation, to make true and real progress in this great nation, Brazil.

So here in Exodus 40, in the first 8 verses, you will see that the Lord spoke with Moses. This is what He said: "Set up the tabernacle." Here is the point: everything had already been prepared; everything was ready. The lampstand was ready. The table of the bread of the Presence was ready. Everything had been prepared. But it had not yet been assembled. So for the first time, in Exodus 40, after much preparation, God said to Moses: "Now put it all together." And you can read in those first verses: "Put each thing in its proper place. Put each thing exactly where it should be." And then, in verse 9, what happened? What did God say to Moses in verse 9? He said: "Now anoint these already

prepared objects." Here is the process. When all things were in their proper places, only then was there anointing. Turn and tell your neighbor: "That is very good! That is a very good word!" Tell your neighbor: "The missionary is doing a better job preaching than you are shouting." (laughter…)

But can you see the principle here? Open your Bible. Can you see the principle there? Put each thing in its place, and when everything is in the right place, then I want you to anoint everything. Here is the point. Your anointing will meet you when you find your place. When you are in your proper place, that is where you will find the anointing that has been prepared for your life.

It is precisely at this point that we find one of the enemy's primary strategies to defeat us. John 14 is a very simple passage. You probably learned it as a child. It simply says that Jesus went to prepare a place for you. Of course this applies to our heavenly destination. But it also happens that He has prepared a place for you here in this life. Friends, for me personally, this is a principle we cannot stop emphasizing. It is critically important that you be in your position, in your divine calling. And you can see the strategy of demons to pull people out of their place. It is so easy today for people to move from one place to another. Preachers go from one place to another. But I will tell you, while that keeps happening, the Bible puts it this way: Proverbs 27: "like a bird that strays from its nest is a man who strays from his place." If you can be seduced out of your place, you have no rest in your spirit, you do not have a full anointing on your life. Perhaps you have some charisma, perhaps you have some gifts that function, but that is not the same as living in the anointing. Because the anointing breaks the yoke. Charisma does not break the yoke. The gift of God, humanly speaking by itself, does not break the yoke. Only the anointing breaks the yoke. And what does Satan say? After the Jordan River, he immediately came to Jesus, offering opportunities. Good opportunities! But his strategy was to pull Jesus out of His position. Jesus knew what His place was: "Satan, it is written: Worship the Lord your God only; serve only Him." Jesus did not move from His place,

spiritually, not even for some kind of supposed promotion. So we have already seen that Jesus prepared a place for you.

In 1 Corinthians 15:46 we have another simple principle: "The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual." Repeat that with me. And when you decide to be a person of principles, you start to look for these things. This is not a religious law, but it is a principle of Scripture. First the natural, then the spiritual. That is why it is important that you be in your place. On the natural level, the city in which you live is important. The church you are a member of is important. Where you are located geographically is important. It is important in the natural because that is where you find your spiritual provision. 1 Corinthians 12:18: "But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be." So you can already see where I am going with this principle. Our objective is clear. It is for the cloud of God's glory to descend upon the tabernacle. Our ultimate objective is clear to us. We want the glory of God to fill the tabernacle. An even greater objective than that is for the glory of God to fill the Earth. For the glory of God to be revealed and all flesh see it. But, friends, that is the result, the consequence of what happens beforehand. And it will never happen until people are all in their places. And perhaps some of us have a broader perspective on things.

I'll be honest with you. To some, this truly seems impossible. In the natural, it almost seems impossible. That there could be unity among churches, that people could each be in their place, and that the glory of God could be revealed. Honestly, if it were not here in the Scriptures, I could not believe it. But it is our process. And it will happen at some point in history. Because the earth will be filled with the glory of God. The glory of God will descend upon the earth. The Bible even tells us when that will happen. That darkness will cover the earth. A thick darkness will cover the peoples, but the glory of the Lord will rise upon you, the glory will be in you. Isaiah says: "Over every house, over every tabernacle, there will be a cloud by day and a fire by night." That is the promise of God, my friends! Come on, somebody! That is the promise for this nation, for this generation — that is the promise for your life! Over your house! Over your children!

Over your ministry! Over your checkbook! I am talking a lot here about checkbooks. I will tell you: someone told me they do not believe in this prosperity doctrine. Then what do you believe in? The poverty doctrine? What do you believe? Believe whatever you like! I believe my God is a prosperous God! I believe He fulfills His promises! I believe He fulfills them for a thousand generations! But what He is looking for is that generation that will enter into God's purpose. You cannot wait for everyone. You cannot wait until the entire church comes into divine order. Because it starts with you! Revival starts with me. Divine order starts with me. It starts with me and with you today. You cannot make a decision for anyone else. But you can make your own decision. And you can, yes, arrive at that assurance of being in the right place God has designated for you.

In the earthly ministry of Jesus, people were around Him all the time. They came to seek what they could receive. And there was an occasion when everyone quit; they left Him alone. In fact, more than once. But this is what Jesus said to the Father: "Of all those You gave Me, I have lost none of them." God did not give you everyone in your church. Some are only there because they like you. Some are only there because you are handsome like me. Other times they leave because you are as ugly as David... (laughter...). For every kind of reason. But God gave you leadership over certain individuals. And you need to teach them not just the promise. You need to teach them, help them understand the process. Jesus learned obedience through the things He suffered. Jesus was tempted. Jesus endured the process. Although He was God, He had something that could not be taken from Him. He became like a man, to walk as a man, to be an example of the process, so as to demonstrate the result.

In Judges 7:21, we see a conflict between Gideon and the Midianites. This is another very simple verse and we know the story of Gideon. He was not a very impressive person. He was not a man we would consider great. He was hiding from the Midianites. And then an angel came and said: "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior!" Gideon replied: "I think you are talking to the wrong guy. You must have gotten confused. I am the least in my family, in the smallest clan of Manasseh." The angel knew

something about Gideon that he himself did not know about himself. God knows something about you; He has seen your future, your tomorrow. He gave you a promise. Maybe you are hiding in a cave today. But you have an appointed meeting with an angel who is coming to tell you who you are. In the natural, Gideon was not a soldier, was not a warrior, had no army, had no experience. But the Bible says in chapter 7:21 that when Gideon and a small group of men took their place — they had no swords, no weapons; just a torch in one hand and a shofar in the other — the Midianites could have died laughing at them. But because they simply took their place, the Bible says something remarkable. That the Midianites fled from them. Why? Because they were in their place! Each one was in his place! When you are in your place, I tell you, demons will run from you! Because when you are in your place, you have authority, you have anointing, you have provision, you have confidence. You have power when you are in your place. That is why demons work twenty-four hours a day to seduce you out of your place. Amen. Do not leave your place!

Just two examples. Of what it looks like to be in your place, and to be out of your place.

2 Samuel 11:1 — This is an example of what happens when you are not in your place.

This happened with King David when he was seduced out of his place. You will recognize this immediately. A very simple principle. When you become a person of principles, the Word of God ceases to be complicated for you. The Bible ceases to be a complicated book. When you understand that God has a process for your life, you begin to read the Bible and to look for principles — not some religious law to confine you, but a spiritual principle to illuminate you. Here the text says: "In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war." Who was the king? David was the king. So, at the time when kings went off to war, David stayed in Jerusalem. What is wrong with that? It was the time for kings to go off to war. But David chose to stay in Jerusalem. He violated a very, very serious principle. There may be many reasons for this. David had fought many battles;

perhaps he was tired of battles. Perhaps he was simply in a bad mood. Perhaps he was not feeling well. Whatever the reason, when the time came for him to go to war, he chose to stay in Jerusalem. And you know what the result was. When he was out of his place, he became restless, bored, lost his sense of purpose. So he was just innocently there on the rooftop of his house, and you know the story from there. He ended up in adultery, ended up becoming a murderer. And even worse. What is worse than sinning in adultery? What is even worse than having become a murderer? He brought reproach upon the things of God. That is even worse. He brought reproach, a bad testimony upon Jesus. Why? Because he was out of his place. So simple, isn't it? It is not complicated. It really is not. But he left his place. When he left his place, he stepped out from under the grace, out from his capacity to resist, out from his leadership, out from his anointing, and the consequences were terrible. Turn and tell your neighbor: I hope this never happens to me. Turn and tell another neighbor: I am going to keep my place. I am going to stay in my place.

One final example. I am moving quickly here because I am hungry. I need a Big Mac. Marti said no. Does anyone want some yogurt? We will have yogurt and whole wheat bread! But what I really want is a Big Mac! But my wife said no. That is another principle: husbands, obey your wives! (laughter…)

2 Kings 2 — You will remember this story too. It is the encounter between Elijah and Elisha. And it should be familiar to all of you. Are you familiar with the ministry of Elijah? The great prophet of fire! And then you know the ministry of Elisha. What was Elisha's ultimate objective? What was his goal? What did he want? "I want a double portion of the spirit that is on you." Are you with me? That was the result. That is what he desired. A double portion of the fire, the anointing, and the spirit he had seen on Elijah. How many of you here would like to have a double portion? Okay, only four of you. All right. But if you read these verses, here is the test throughout the entire journey. Elijah asked Elisha: "What do you want?" And he said: "I want double what you have." Jesus is asking you today: "What do you want?" Everyone has an answer. We all have an answer. Maybe

our answers are different. But everyone has an answer. What do you want in your life? Jesus comes back to you and says: "Okay, you can have it if you can accept the process, the process that will produce it." So three or four times, Elijah said to Elisha: "I am going to Jericho. You wait here for me. I'll be back in a couple of days." Elisha said: "No. I am going with you." "I am just going to the Jordan quickly and you stay here. I just wanted to be away for two days. It's only two days. I'll be right back." And Elisha would say: "No. As long as I live, I am with you." And finally Elijah said: "If you can see when I am taken, you can have what you are seeking." So Elisha endured the process. The other prophets tried to discourage him. They said: "Do you know that your master is going to be taken today?" There are always those full of opinions. There are always those who think they know something. There are always those who have a lot of advice for your life. There are always those who say you are wasting your time. There are always those who tell you to relax and slow down. But I will tell you, my friends, when that chariot of fire came, when that flaming chariot came and Elijah went up in it, there was one man standing right there. His name was Elisha. And he saw the entire process. There were many prophets in Israel. All probably had the same desire, but the man who received the reward was the person who was in his place.

My friend, God has a place for you. First in the natural, and then in the spiritual. In the natural is the provision for you to grow in the spiritual. We spoke here from the verse that says God placed each one in the Body of Christ as He Himself wished. It does not say there that it was as you wished, but that it was as God wished. The place God appointed you may not appeal to you. Perhaps you desire to be somewhere else. A more attractive place. A more prosperous place. But God has a place for you. Amen.

Last night we talked about four things you need to know about the anointing. This morning we talked about how important it is to be in your place. Because that is where the cloud, the glory, and the spiritual direction for your life will be, without any confusion. When the cloud of God is there, it eliminates all confusion about which path you should follow and when they had to march.

Millions of Christians today have no idea where they are going or how they will get there. Because they are not living under the cloud. Because they are not in their designated place.

Hallelujah!

Turn and tell your neighbor: take your place. Stay in your place. Do not leave your place.

This is not the entire process. And, God willing, at another opportunity we will take a deeper look at this chapter. Because after Moses anointed the tabernacle, he then had to prepare the priesthood. And if the Lord gives us the freedom, we will continue with this at another time.

Are you happy? Smiling? Why are you laughing?

Okay, remain standing. Listen, my friends. Stay happy, but listen. My objective today is not to create doubt in your heart. If I created doubt, I missed the mark. I do not want to create anxiety in you about your place. If you are not sure you are in the right place, all you need to do is ask Jesus and He will show you. My real objective is to increase your faith so that when you are in your place, you know it — and then you will have the faith, you will have the provision, you will know that you have authority. And if you know that, then you can use it. You can take advantage of the benefit of being in your place. Are you happy? Still happy? Amen.