

DATE: 21st October 2023

Halleluiah!

- **Ten, ten ten to thank the lord, briefly.**

Acts 20:17-35

17 From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. 18 When they arrived, he said to them: "You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. 19 I served the Lord with great humility and with tears, although I was severely tested by the plots of the Jews. 20 You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. 21 I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus. 22 "And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. 23 I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. 24 However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me — the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace. 25 "Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. 26 Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. 28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. 29 I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in

among you and will not spare the flock. 30 Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. 31 So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. 32 "Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. 33 I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. 34 You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. 35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" NIV

From what we were saying yesterday, you can see that the church is not in meetings, God leaves the brethren on people, God leaves the brethren on people, and you are responsible.

The apostle Paul is giving an account of his own leadership, the way he handled the church in Ephesus:

- house to house.
- a commitment to each one.
- Forgetting his own problems.
- So many enemies, but concentrating on his ministry.
- Loving them, not being a burden to them.



- Working day and night, not because of what he wants from them.

And he can say after three years: I am free, I have cared for you, each one of you, I have taught each one of you, I have watched over each one of you. If any of you perish, it is not my fault. Now, I hand over the church to you. Handle it the way I have handled you. Handle the church the way I have handled you:

- Carry it
- Care for it.
- Love them, but don't possess them. They belong to God; you are care takers.
- I am leaving you but I am not deceived, when I go, dangers will come from outside and from among you, elders. Many of you, you have not showed your colour because I was there, and you were afraid of me, I know that as soon as I say goodbye to you, the people who have resented me are going to seek to have their personal disciples, and that's how everyone is going to look for their own teachings, to have their own disciples, and people are going to seek to own the church of God.

There will be wolves, and the worse wolves are those who want personal disciples. Who will not care for

anybody, unless the person belongs to them. It is not enough that it is God's church, but that is not my message.

My message was: both God and the apostle Paul leave people on people, on leaders.

The church in Ephesus was not left in a building or on the list, it was left on people, on leaders, on elders; those who are responsible.

And the apostle Paul told them how to handle it and what to use. We come to that later on. He told them:

I hand over the church to you, I hand over the brethren to you:

- Care for them the way I cared for you
- Be free of their blood
 - ✓ By caring for them.
 - ✓ By teaching them.
 - ✓ By showing them the truth the way

I did for you. Care for them.

Both God and man leave those who have believed on people who are to be responsible for them.

And Paul did not leave them with nothing.

Halleluiah

Paul told the elders:



- I leave you God.
- I leave you the Word of God.

The true successor of apostles is:

- The knowledge of God they have built into the leaders and
- The Word of God.

The covetousness of the position of leadership is a worldly thing that satan has used to attack our ministry.

The true successor of the apostle, it is true the left people, but he told them: I leave you with God, I leave you the Word of God. He has given them all the wealth that they will need for their leadership.

I leave you with the charge, I commend you to God and to His Word.
Work!

- God content
- The knowledge of His Word. The word of God is food.
- The presence of God.

That is all you need. Give that to these people.

We have not known the Scriptures, and so, worldliness has tormented us with rivalries, jealousies for worldly ambitions in the church.

The successor of the apostles is what? 'I leave you with God and with the

Word of God. I will go, you will never see me again, I leave you with God, I have taught you God, I have shown you God and I leave you with the Word of God' The scriptures and the teachings that I have given you. You can go on if you want.

But there are 'elders-shepherds' and there are 'elders-wools'. All of them were bishops. Some will be 'bishop wools' and some will be 'bishops-shepherds'.

The 'bishops-shepherds will follow the Lord Jesus. "It is more blessed to give than to receive".

The 'shepherds-wolves' will look for the disciples to build their identity, to come after them. The 'elders-wolves' take from the flock.

The 'elders-shepherds' give to the flock, not just money, their lives and God and the Word of God.

- ***Can two people pray that God will break the hand of the devil that has transformed leadership into the jealousy to replace leaders.***

I am not saying it because I am a leader, I think if somebody else was the leader, I am sure I will be one of the biggest people on whom they would have depended, because I will



not want my father's ministry to go to waste.

In whoever hands it is, at least, it will be my father's ministry. I will make sure it does not fail.

There is a film called: "Lord of the rings" – in that film, there is a young man who has a leadership burden. He is called Frudo. And he has a friend: Sandje. Frudo has to carry a terrible ring of satan to go and destroy. At one time, the weight of that ring weighs so much on Frudo, because the ring used to talk to anybody who holds it. It will tell you: "wear me, so that satan will see you". Because when you wore it, wherever you are satan will see you. satan in that film is called soron. After some time, Frudo was tired and Sandjeh refused, he was the only one that refused.

I learnt from there that people love leadership, even if it will kill them. Sandje told Frudo, I cannot carry the ring, it is your responsibility, but if you are too tired to carry it, I can carry you, that is my responsibility. Hold the ring and I will hold you.

And there are very few people like that.

"carry the ring, I can carry you".

I believe that if I was not the leader, I think, I would have carried whoever

was the leader, so that we can succeed. But how can you tell? Now I am the leader, that is why I don't give such testimonies.

Halleluiah!

When I was 18, I attended my second leadership course in December in Yaoundé that was being led by brother Zach. He was teaching us on: "God, a man and men".

That when God has a burden, he entrusts it to a man, he raises men to stand with the man for the accomplishment of his vision.

During that course, brother Zach defined for us spiritual leadership. He told us: leadership is conditioned on a life, poured out for others.

And he illustrated it. He told us: the leader is a yoghurt cup, people are not looking for the cup, they are looking for the content. Whoever bought a yoghurt cup? We buy yoghurt. Say, Amen! Does one buy the empty cup? what do we buy? Yoghurt.

He told us, spiritual leadership is like a yoghurt cup. If you want people to decorate your house with the yoghurt cups, you are in for a joke.

Year after year, I have to remind myself what spiritual leadership is. Who said you were wonderful?

If you allow people's compliments to penetrate your head and turn it, you will have only your eyes to shed tears. If someone tells you that you are handsome, it is because the yoghurt is so good that you have to say something to the yoghurt cup. If you too, despite what you see in the mirror, believe what you were told, because the yoghurt was disturbing their heads, really, you too, Since when have you been handsome? Before you became a leader, who told you you were handsome? Expressions like, "I cannot live without you," it is the yoghurt that bothers them. If you die today, he will live a long time and even forget you.

Brother Zach would often say to me, "Theodore, the only thing you have is your walk with God, the rest is for God's purpose and for his people. Your spiritual gifts, your leadership are for God's people, the only thing you have is your walk with God, that is what you will carry in heaven, so don't joke with it.

Isa 3:1-7

See now, the Lord, the Lord Almighty, is about to take from Jerusalem and Judah both supply and support: all supplies of food and all supplies of water, 2 the hero and warrior, the judge and prophet, the soothsayer and elder, 3 the captain of fifty and man of rank, the

counselor, skilled craftsman and clever enchanter. 4 I will make boys their officials; mere children will govern them. 5 People will oppress each other — man against man, neighbor against neighbor. The young will rise up against the old, the base against the honorable. 6 A man will seize one of his brothers at his father's home, and say, "You have a cloak, you be our leader; take charge of this heap of ruins!" 7 But in that day he will cry out, "I have no remedy. I have no food or clothing in my house; do not make me the leader of the people." VIN

The LORD, the God, the Lord of resources and all support. And he goes on to tell us what resources are and what constitutes strength, stability, consolidation of the church.

Resources : What are they?

- Food
- Money
- Water

What is support: Leaders, even enchanters, people to whom people turn.

If God cuts away resources, what are the consequences?

He says, I will make boys your officials. Then there shall be oppression by others, disharmony and conflicts.

When God takes away the leaders, the church has no support. So, God builds, maintains, keeps the church



with two things: resources and pillars.

The resources to feed and the pillars to keep.

And if God takes away all those who are the rulers, Jerusalem has no support.

It is the leaders who are the backbone of a ministry.

If God cuts off the resources and God cuts off the leaders, the church will collapse.

When there are no leaders, no resources, there will be divisions, conflicts. Conflicts, disorder occur when there are no leaders who have emerged, and everything else will be conflicts, divisions, rebellions, revolts.

If we don't raise leaders, there will always be people who will occupy the positions of leaders, and they will be the young converts, the children who know nothing, the scoundrels, who will not bring the resources, they will be young people who will mistreat the people and the people will also mistreat them. Abimelech vs. Shechem and Shechem vs. Abimelech

Being a leader is wealth. They were looking for leaders. When they saw a

brother, they said: "You have a jacket, it means there's something in your pocket, we call you our leader." He said, no, don't be fooled because of this jacket I'm wearing, there's nothing at home. Do not make me leader.

Unfortunately, in our ministry, people do not run away from appointments because they do not understand what it means. They don't understand that it is responsibility. This guy took his last jacket, he dressed his best to go to church, and as soon as the brothers saw him, they said, "This is our leader." At least he has the jacket. And it is said that he was seized by force to make him the leader. He said, "Sorry, don't fool yourselves with my jacket." In my house, there is nothing, there is nothing.

What do I mean? People run away from leadership because it is responsibility. They flee.

If it happens that people understand, see leadership as a prey to be snatched, something of identity, that will give them an identity, there will be a lot of candidates for leadership.

But the day we understand that leadership is responsibility, that you must have the strength to carry the church, have the resources to carry



the church, I assure you, you will even run away from your jacket, you will quickly wear a t-shirt so that you will not be mistaken for a leader.

It sounds funny, but brings out a truth.

The church needs resources and support. To be a leader is to provide resources and support. Being a leader is not about 'dressing to kill'. To be a leader is not to be honoured. Being a leader is responsibility. And to be a leader is to have what it takes to fulfil responsibilities.

If you are ambitious to be a leader, ensure that you are also ambitious to fulfil the responsibilities that come with it. But don't be the scoundrel who seeks honour.

Isa 45:1-4

"This is what the Lord says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their armor, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut: 2 I will go before you and will level the mountains; I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron. 3 I will give you the treasures of darkness, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name. 4 For the sake of Jacob my servant, of Israel my chosen, I summon you by name and

bestow on you a title of honor, though you do not acknowledge me. NIV

God said to Cyrus :

I make you leader. And this is a worldly man, Israel was in captivity and their leaders were unbelievers. And God said unto Cyrus, I shall make you leader, and I will give you many victories, gates of riches, so that you may take care of my people Israel.

If God makes you leader, be assured that He will give you hidden victories and treasures.

If you are made a leader and if you aspire to be a leader, from where will you have the victories and the hidden treasures? It is even said that these treasures are hidden, which means that it is not open to everyone.

If God calls you to leadership, if He gives you the burden of leadership, He will give you His victories, and His resources, even if He has to give you hidden riches.

If God calls you to leadership, rest assured that He is giving you His victories, hidden treasures, and accomplishments.

All of this is to say that leadership is about victories, resources, goals and accomplishments.

That's why people run away from responsibility.

In our ministry, people think that leadership is a position of gain, that's why they don't run away from it. But even those who aspire to leadership positions run away from responsibility. It is just a scam. Isaiah calls such people scoundrels.

Neh 5:14-19

14 Moreover, from the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, until his thirty-second year — twelve years — neither I nor my brothers ate the food allotted to the governor. 15 But the earlier governors — those preceding me — placed a heavy burden on the people and took forty shekels of silver from them in addition to food and wine. Their assistants also lorded it over the people. But out of reverence for God I did not act like that. 16 Instead, I devoted myself to the work on this wall. All my men were assembled there for the work; we did not acquire any land. 17 Furthermore, a hundred and fifty Jews and officials ate at my table, as well as those who came to us from the surrounding nations. 18 Each day one ox, six choice sheep and some poultry were prepared for me, and every ten days an abundant supply of wine of all kinds. In spite of all this, I never demanded the food allotted to the governor, because the demands were heavy on these people. 19 Remember me with favor, O my God, for all I have done for these people. NIV

This is spiritual leadership: "all that I have done for this people."

Twelve years without salary, twelve years of responsibility, feeding the people. If every day one ox, six goats, and innumerable chickens are prepared; per year, 366 oxen, more than 2100 sheep, and chickens.

And he says: with all these responsibilities, I wasn't interested in acquiring land, I kept my head on the goal: those who were really committed to me, those I could influence, I kept them focused on the goal.

I explain this because there are people who are no longer mine, their hearts have left the goal, it is now a question of grabbing land because of greed. To Nehemiah, his true people who were committed to him were like him in their consecration.

It clearly explains:

- 365 oxen per year
- 2000 goats per year.
- Poultry that cannot be counted.
- A lot of wine that was made for twelve years, because their condition was miserable.

Later he said, "I myself I'm lending money to the people." This means that during all the time he was a civil servant in Suza, he saved money.



What is leadership? resources. He saved the money and when he came to Israel, he appointed his brother as ruler of Israel because he feared God. Today, people who do not fear God are appointed.

We see the apostle Paul and Barnabas: they blessed them in Antioch and sent them on Mediterranean journeys for years. And the apostle Paul, with his own lips, said to the Philippians that when he began to preach the gospel, no church stood with him." So, his ministry was based on resources that were self-generated by him and Barnabas.

If you want to be a great apostle, let it cost you.

He himself said: "no church was our financial partner", he said in the Philippians: you were the first; and they did it because their leader was Luke, he knew the internal financial situation of the team. Luke was one of the co-workers, he joined the team. He could practice as a doctor while they travelled, so he was a resource in the team. He made the effort.

Soon, we are going to have to pay the allowances, people don't even ask themselves: next month, the allowances will come from where. It

is easy, it comes from everywhere except their homes. You've really promoted me tremendously. This dodging of responsibilities. The running away from responsibilities has promoted me enormously.

You're a leader where you don't have anyone to pass the files to. It stops on your table. Leadership is about responsibility.

Leadership is responsibility. The yoke.

That is why we started by saying yesterday that leadership is parenthood. In leadership you carry, all the others are only your helpers, because it is your child.

You can be a leader today. If leadership is parenthood, responsibilities, then there are great days ahead of us. Welcome to leadership.

If leadership is responsibility, there is a need in CMFI to have even two million leaders on the spot.

Leadership is about resources, because leadership is about responsibility.

When God calls us, He gives us His victories, and He is willing to give us hidden riches, so that we can take care of Israel, His people.



God is so good, God is so near.

Don't wait for big responsibilities. My elder brother Victor led me to carry responsibilities with him when I was about 9 years old. We were living with our grandmother, we estimated her age around that time to be 82-84 years. Our father was the second child and in those days, they used to take about 2-3 years between children. So, we calculated everything, my father's age if he was alive, then all the former children, since they used to get married when they were about 14 years old. When you saw your first menses, you were ready for marriage.

One of our uncles told me, when I went to ask for school fees: he asked me: how many wives do I have. I said: four.

He asked: how many children do I have?

I calculated, at that time, they were around 11-12.

He asked me: have I finished all the fees for the school of my own children before I started paying for my brother's child?

That was my answer for asking for school fees.

But in my father's village, they make oil. After people have finished extracting all they could, my elder

brother Victor and I will go and stand inside, we were small, the place was so slippery, we put our small legs and we pressed, we shook the gravy in order to foam the oil and gather. If we did like that for about two-three weeks, we could make one gallon of five liters.

Then he and I will travel for about 48 kilometers to Nkambe to sell our oil. I remember the price of one gallon of oil till this day, it was 700 francs.

When we finish selling it, sometimes we have bitter cola that we harvested. When we finish, we bought Ovaltine and Bonvita for our grandmother with sugar.

We would buy groceries for the house, come back, give it to our grandmother. We were the men of the house, and we paid for our schooling.

So, many of you who think that problems started with you, and you are coming to a leader who is well-off. Me, when I was nine years old, and my older brother Victor was 11, we took care of ourselves and our grandmother. We were men at home, and our aunts came to work hard to leave us a lot of tapioca at home and make oil.

You don't start taking responsibility when you're old, bearded.



When I was 18, I failed the (GCE) A-level exams for the first time and we were kicked out of the house. There was my cousin whom I took on, we rented a house in Bambili, I taught, I was paid 23,000 a month. I paid for his schooling and we lived on the rest. There was a girl I had brought to the Lord that I was taking care of. She is a great pastor now in Yaoundé. But I paid for my cousin Ernest's schooling.

Responsibilities don't start when you're appointed. Say: Amen.
Being a student in Ngoa-Ekelle with 25,000. I was giving
7000 to God
5000 to my disciples and my house assembly
12,000 to my cousin Sam for feeding.
1000 for emergencies, because at the age of 15, without making an effort, I decided not to give myself pocket money. It's been 44 years since I have given myself pocket money.

So, if I give you my money, don't think we're swimming in an ocean. You should know that for 44 years, I didn't spend 400 francs to buy sweets, because if I started eating sweets, I would not be a leader, but I buy them for others. It is part of the art of winning people.

These are the disciplines I imposed on myself that have made some

things useless to me, they have no value.

Responsibilities start early. We manage 700 francs, God gives you 23,000 francs, 25,000 francs, and I worked at ONAREF, my salary was 163,000 and I know how I spent it, because I have the accounts of all the money that God has given me since 1987 to date, everything I have received and how I have spent it.

You don't become responsible because you have been given a title. I am glad that before our grandmother died, God gave me the opportunity when she was alive, as a child, to do something for her. I am glad that before the gospel got its claws on me, I was able to do something in my cousin's family.

The Lord had begun to give me a ministry of the Word because He saw that if I had the money, I would give it all to my sheep. That's where the messages come from, they don't come from an intelligent mind. God will give you spiritual gifts if you are willing to give the little you have.

