

The Role of the Second Man in the Local Church

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I. Model in David's Mighty Men - II Samuel 23

- A. David was a great king and leader...he was raised up of God to lead Israel – vv. 1-7
 1. On his death bed he was giving his final words – v. 1
 2. He acknowledged the Hand of God upon His life – vv. 2-3
 3. No doubt David was reflecting upon the men God had brought into his life and ministry to help him rule...vv. 8-39...**v. 8, "These be the names of the mighty men whom David had..."**
- B. David could not have done what he did without the help of others, his assistants – vv. 8-39
 1. The first three mighty men...put their lives on the line (Adino, Eleazar, and Shammah) – vv. 8-12
 2. The second three mighty men...put their lives on the line for David to get him a drink – vv. 13-17
 3. Two special men (Abishai and Benaiah) – vv. 18-23...
 - a. Abishai - v. 19, "Was he not most honorable of three?"
 - b. Benaiah - v. 23, "He was more honorable than the three..."
 - c. These were men adept and skilled in hand to hand combat...David had great confidence in them...he trusted them.
 4. Thirty-seven in all who had committed themselves to God to serve David – vv. 24-39
 5. All these men showed a high level of commitment to their God chosen leader.
- C. There were three things true about all these men, these assistants of David
 1. These men wanted to be a **blessing** to David, their leader...no matter the cost.
 2. These men had given themselves to serve God by serving David...many of these men were great men in their own right...they could have commanded men (and they did under David's authority)...but they **chose** to serve David (to place themselves under his ministry and authority).
 3. All these men **recognized** that God's Hand was upon David and they **wanted to be a part** of what God was doing through his life and ministry (III. of my observation of Pastor Monroe over these past 18.5 years).

II. Background/Practical Considerations

- I was raised in a Pastor's home...godly dad and mom...
- Attend BJU, graduated with a BA in Bible in and an MA in theology two years later.
 - As I neared the completion of my MA, I did not know where I was going. I had been praying, but no clear direction.
- My father called me about a week before I was to leave BJU. He had been in a preachers' fellowship in Dallas, TX. Pastor friend looking for a youth pastor.
- Two years in this church in Dallas... served as youth pastor and helped with the music
- My transition to my home church in Graham, TX...they had started a Christian school the year before...needed training in education. Three summers getting MS in Ed Adm. Met my wife to be during that time. Seven years here.
- Transition in 1984 to Providence Baptist Church in Tampa, FL, I served there for 25 years under three pastors...1984-2009.
 - During the two interims my responsibilities increased...church looked to me to provide stability during these transitions. Our church called John Monroe as the pastor in 1995.

- I served as school administrator from 1984-1998. I loved Christian schools, but I felt like my time was coming to a close as a school administrator after 21 years in school administration in two ministries.
- Pastor Monroe asked me to become his assistant beginning in 1999-2009.
- God called Pastor Monroe away in January of 2009 to Faith Baptist Church here in Taylors, SC. Through God's leading, we came to Faith Baptist in June 2009.
- I did not begin my ministry way back knowing that I would become a second man. I had a pastor's heart, but did not have a strong burden to pastor a church, but that was not ruled out. My role evolved over several years.
- What is a second man? One visiting preacher while still in FL before I came to Faith, told me one Sunday when I referred to myself as a *second man* – ***"You are not a "Second Man" but God's man in your place of service. It is just as honorable as the senior pastor if it is God's call upon your life."*** That is absolutely true. I find great fulfillment in my role, I am given to detail and order and am given to administration...I like to see things done well, organized, and executed. I find great joy and fulfillment in my role as a *second man* in a local church.

III. Duties of a Second Man –

- My pastor's gifts and passion are counseling, discipleship, and the ministry of the Word.
- My role/ministry helps to free him up to do the things that are his passion.
- My current role at FBC is to provide leadership for the following in helping Pastor Monroe pastor the church:
 - **Adult SS ministry** – Promote the SS, select curriculum, recruit teachers, officers, and directors, conduct T & O meetings, train workers, coordinate and assign space.
 - **Outreach ministry** - includes monthly outreach, Hispanic soccer ministry with a Spanish church in our area. See every guest card for church and SS and get them into the hands of the pastoral staff and SS personnel for follow up.
 - **Missions**- I organize, with the assistance of the MMT, the scheduling of missionaries for our church's annual missions conference, prepare and recommend a missions budget, research candidate missionaries, I respond to all missionaries asking for meetings, schedule missionaries home on furlough to give WN updates, coordinate our Short Term missions program.
 - **Coordinate most church wide meetings and events**, including Spring revival, men's retreats, men's conferences, and our annual missions conference, assist pastor in securing speakers
 - **Coordinate Ministers in Training (MIT) ministry** - Pastor Monroe had a burden to start a mentoring ministry for young men in the ministry. I oversee the MIT ministry and interns from BJU.
 - **Oversee print materials** - Oversee the content and final printing of Sunday bulletins, WN prayer bulletins, and other printed materials such as church directories and yearly calendar.
 - **Church Services** -I do the announcements and recognize guests in each service. I fill the pulpit for pastor as the occasion arises.
 - **Coordinate Special Sundays** – Ministry Opportunity Sunday, Love Your Neighbor Sunday, Honor the Bible Sunday, Graduate Sunday, etc.
 - **Tag team in Hospital Ministry** – Cover for the pastor...surgeries, visits, emergencies, etc. With a membership over a thousand, he cannot meet every need.

- **Prepare Budgets** - I prepare budgets for my area of responsibilities, but we have a stewardship pastor who is responsible for the entire church budget along with a Stewardship Committee.
- **Interview Associate members** – Interview, mostly students, and present them on Sunday nights.
- **Conduct monthly office staff meetings.** Pastor Monroe meets with the staff twice a month to discuss philosophy and the heart of ministry. I meet monthly with staff to coordinate events, discuss issues, determine how to eliminate congestion, how to major on “wins.” In this meeting I tackle the nuts and bolts of the ministry in the trenches.

IV. Qualities of a Second Man – What is a Pastor looking for? What does he value?

- I asked Pastor Monroe not long ago what he thought a second man should be. He quipped... “Someone who will help me not look like an idiot!”
- **A man who will be...**
 - **Loyal** – # 1 greatest thing your pastor needs besides your prayers. Pastor Monroe and I developed a bond while in ministry at Providence...we served together for 13.5 yrs...when he accepted the call to Faith, he asked me about two months later if I would consider joining him here at Faith. He knew I had been loyal and supportive to his ministry. You don’t allow people ever to come to you in criticism of the pastor. You direct them to him. Speak well of your pastor to others...build him and his family up. When you disagree with him on something, never go to a deacon or a church member, you go to him. Build a team mentality. Know that he has struggles like anyone else. Be loyal, be protective.
 - **Subordinate** – He is the pastor, not me...never try to be the pastor. He always has the veto power on anything...that seldom happens. Can’t be in the limelight...must not become jealous or envious...second fiddle sometimes is hard, but God will give you grace to accept your role...your role is to enhance and broaden the ministry of the pastor with the flock... When you fill the pulpit, never begin a series, or seek to address church problems or to shear the sheep or seek to give pastoral counsel...your role is to be a blessing to the people with an encouraging Bible message...never make the pastor have to correct your messes. Temper your messages. Hospital calls...in a church of over a thousand members in attendance, there are a lot of hospital calls...cannot make them all...go representing the pastor. Never a power struggle. If you feel the need to lead or to do things differently than your pastor, then go and start your own church or candidate for God’s call to a church. God never calls a second man to split a church or harm a church. If you cannot be supportive and subordinate, then be honest and move on.
 - **Proactive** – Anticipate your pastor’s desires, try to think like he does, put yourself in his shoes, be a step ahead of him. Don’t make him do your thinking for you. Know when to go to the pastor and when to act in any given situation without going to him. That’s why it is so important to know him and his thinking. You want to learn to think like him. When your pastor is in need, drop what you are doing and go. Be the first one there to minister to him. Ill. of pastor’s son being injured...drove to Greenwood to be a help and encouragement to him.
 - **Content** – You must learn contentment and accept your place in the ministry. You must not become resentful or envious. People will do many kind things for their pastor because he is feeding his people and meeting needs in their lives through his counseling that you never can. People love to do tangible things for their under shepherd. God uses their pastor to touch their lives. Rejoice in that. See yourself as making him successful and you will fulfill your role. You will find great satisfaction in that. Must die to “self.” God will do unexpected things for

you as well.

- **Organized** – A good secretary can help you with this. Use a calendar and live by it...smartphone can be a tremendous tool to help you in ministry. My iPhone calendar is invaluable. I write names of guests and new members in the phone right away. Learn people's names and remember them. Prompt your pastor on who people are. Don't forget appts or meetings. Answer emails to staff and members quickly. Stay on top of details. Be on time to meetings. Value people's time. Don't waste your pastor's or other people's time. Respect his time and space. Keep a list of things you need to discuss and make meetings with the pastor important. Keep good notes of meetings. When making visits, keep good records. Enter them in a database for future reference. Will be invaluable to the ministry.
- **Dependable** – Make yourself invaluable to your pastor, but know that you are not indispensable. The greatest ability is dependability. Walk humbly. Don't expect pats on the back...know that you are doing your job and that is the important thing. Please the Lord. Be an encourager with your life to your pastor. Stay soft and tender and right with God. Have a godly home. Your pastor does not need to have to deal with your problems. He will if necessary, but be a **constant and a steady** for him in the local church. Ill. of Pastor one Sunday night after my wife and I sang...he is steady. That was a huge honor to me. Don't create crises for him. Always be accountable of your whereabouts. You are accountable to the Lord, your wives, your church, your pastor. Ill-Pastor quipped to me awhile back while sitting at a table eating a meal following a funeral, "I don't know half of what goes on around here." He was saying that he does not have to worry with the details of the ministry...he knows they will be covered. To me, that was a great compliment to the church staff, pastoral staff, volunteer staff, and my role as his assistant.

V. Transitions in Ministry

- During a transition when a pastor leaves, a second man can be a stabilizing influence for the people. Never a time to stage a power or ego struggle. Ex. of two pastoral changes at Providence and three pastors I served under. **I was asked to consider being the pastor. I knew my calling as a second man.**
- Be sensitive to God's leadership in your life. Know when it is the right time to move on. I knew I was not up for a fourth pastoral change at Providence. I was honest with the leadership and let them know that I would be moving on. A new pastor coming in did not need a staff member who had been there 25 years. He needed to start fresh. I had given 25 years to this church, so I was sensitive and desirous that they find God's man for the church...and they did. God opened the door for me at my current ministry.

VI. Conclusion

- "Blessed the man who is able to serve cheerfully in the second rank -- a big test."
- The role of the Second Man is indeed a calling.