

Music and Management

When Ezra showed up in Jerusalem three times, the Bible says of him, "according to the good hand of God upon him." (Ezra 7:6, 9, 28)

Ezra 7:9 "For upon the first day of the first month began he to go up from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month came he to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him."

I see two things in our churches that are needed, but out of balance: management and music.

Management

As a church grows, the pastor has to become a manager. Organization and management are vital, but nothing is as big as God's presence in your life. I am not organized, and schedule and detail are certainly not my strengths. Perhaps, if I were a better manager, I would have a church running three thousand instead of one thousand. (But let us keep the focus on the Spirit of God and being the man of God.)

I was not called to be a CEO, but a preacher and man of God. In a culture in which men are more concerned about their MBA and management skills than they are about the hand of God, perhaps it would be good to refocus on the most important objective — God's presence on our lives. At many conferences, more messages on administration and keeping the pastor encouraged are given than messages on Spirit fullness, soul winning, and preaching. Presenting messages solely about the flesh is a recipe for failure. No work of God can be built in the strength of the flesh.

Music

The other issue out of balance in our world is music. We all know music is important, but often pastors hire music staff before soul-winning staff; perhaps their priorities are out of balance. Every worldly church in town has a praise band or a praise team. We have fostered a generation of churches in which the worship (falsely labeled) is vastly more important than the message from the Bible. More time is spent on preparing the lighting and music than spent on the preaching and prayer; all of this is terribly wrong. Now, I am for a happy, spirit-filled song service, and I think the man leading singing ought to be passionate about his music, but the entire staff ought to be concerned ten thousand times more about the preaching than the music.

In the Old Testament, certain men were entirely designated to music. But if you follow the ministry of the Saviour and the Apostles, music is rarely mentioned. Preaching, winning souls, starting churches, and ministering to the believers are the focus of the New Testament church.