

BEING THE SECOND MAN: WORKING WITH YOUR LEADER

INTRODUCTION

In our family my children sometimes tell me: “Of course you like being the father and of course you think you have a good wife and you think you have good children, because you give us instructions and we do what you tell us. Nobody gives you instructions. You are the boss. You say: All right, you are going to church now! Or tomorrow we are going to do that! It’s easy for you because you are the boss. “But it’s different for mother and us,” that is what they say, “because we need to obey”.

I. ATTITUDES OF BEING THE SECOND MAN

Our title is “Being the 2nd man,” but the sub-title is “working with your boss ,” which means to help him, to assist him. God placed you in a very special position because He knew just exactly what help that boss needed and who the special person was with the right character and gifts to help this boss . God also placed you there so that you might learn from your director or pastor, from the boss so to speak. It is a most worthy and trustworthy place. Think of Joseph and Daniel, what a lifetime of beautiful service they rendered to God first of all and to their adopted countries secondly. Being the second man is occupying a **sacred place** and few there are who can stay humble and clean before God for a long time. Think of Aaron and how he fell and David’s trusted counselor Ahitophel as well as Jesus’ treasurer Judas. So we are talking about being the second man, being not a boss but a second man. A man who has spiritual joy in making his boss successful.

A. The attitude of being subordinate

We find in 1 Timothy 6:1 *“All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full respect. So that God’s name and our teaching may not be slandered”*. You are supposed to give proper respect to your spiritual chief and I’m going to give you three points under subordinate.

1. **Realize, that God has placed you in the position to serve that man**

We have a new administrator here. It’s his job to make director Misha happy and successful. It’s Volodia’s job to make sure that his pastor Pavel is happy and successful. Realize that God has organized it this way. Did I come to your province and say “You will be an administrator? No.” God organized it that way. It is God’s choice that you at this time should serve this specific spiritual leader.

2. **Be an accompaniment to spiritual leader.**

Be there but in the background. Always be there. Be an accompaniment. You always have to be there. You always have to be present. If the manager has to say: Where is my administrator Dima? I wish I had Dima here! I need these charts or I need this budget! Where is Dima? That is not good. Dima is supposed to be right there. The manager says: Ah! Dima, can you get these videos and lectures ready for me? Dima says: Yes sir, I have already been working on that or I’ll go get it, or “Yes sir I will make that phone call,” or “Yes sir I will take care of it.” So he is there but in the background. Remember that it is your position to make the person above you successful.

3. **Realize that all authority is delegated authority.**

Authority comes from someplace else. A Regional Coordinator is not his own boss, he is a representative of the national leadership team. You are accountable and responsible to the people over you. Can you imagine a coach saying to an administrator “I am only going to work with young men!” Can you imagine an administrator saying to the director “I am going to start a women’s ministry!” The coach and administrator won’t do that if they are spiritual men because they are under authority. A director or pastor is also under authority because he is under the superintendent. The man who had the greatest faith in Israel during the time of Jesus was the Centurion who understood the principle of authority. And

he understood his place in the chain of command. You are all some place in the chain of command under Jesus Christ. We are not our own boss, all our authority is received from Jesus Christ.

B. The attitude of being obedient

The first point was “being subordinate;” this point is about obedience. We look at Ephesians 6:5-8 *“Slaves! Obey your earthly masters with respect and fear and in sincerity of heart just as you obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor,..... but like slaves of Christ doing the will of God. From your heart, serve wholeheartedly as if you were serving the Lord, not man, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does. Whether he is slave or free.”* These verses are some real spiritual nuggets like gold or diamonds.

1. **Perform assigned tasks without murmuring or disputing.**

Griping, complaining or delaying all are signs of rebellion. They show you do not love or honor the person God has placed over you. The Bible is very clear that we should “reverence” those that are older or more spiritually mature or in a place of management. Reverence requires that we practice deference. Showing deference to our immediate superior is perhaps more crucial than deference we show anywhere else in life. The primary example of deference is the quiet work of the Holy Spirit, always glorifying Jesus Christ and never Himself.

2. **Being obedient to the boss is being obedient to God.**

In Exodus 4:16. What does the Bible tell us? God said to Moses: *“You shall be to him in the place of God.”* Instead of God. How much less tension would there be amongst us if we would just serve our boss in a quiet way just as if he were God himself. Let us be quick to remember that there are many things we don’t understand about God. There are many things God does that we don’t like, or things He does that frustrate us little humans. Yet we love Jesus and want to serve Him. Think of your chief and his peculiarities in the same way and serve him as you would serve God.



C. The attitude of being loyal

I Thessalonians 5:12-13: *“Now we ask you brothers to respect those who work hard among you, those who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard, in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.”* Loyal means to enthusiastically support him and his ministry.

1. **Never disgrace your spiritual head in public.**

First Samuel 26:23. David says *“I will not stretch forth my hand against the Lord’s anointed.”* So never criticize your spiritual leader in public. Be like David; don’t lift up your hand or voice against the one that is over you.

2. **Always support the ministry director’s programs wholeheartedly.**

With your whole heart, anything less is not loyal. You are the second man and you should have the same heartbeat for the ministry as your overseer. There should be unity and loyal enthusiastic support. Love is not just a feeling, it is an action and you should love your boss with pleasing actions.

3. **Work out your disagreement in private.**

If you do not privately solve your arguments you cannot work together and you will lose your job. God has a solution for everything. Sometimes you just need to trust your supervisor. If he has a blind spot, gently appeal through the scriptures.

Satan’s tactic whenever we have a difficulty with another brother is that we would rather talk to someone else about it than talk directly to the principal and try to pray together and find a solution. Let’s say I have a difficulty with John. So what do I do? I go to Boris. “Don’t you think it’s a little bit weird? We have to straighten him out a little bit. He is crooked so we need to make him nice.” Boris lives next door so it is very easy for me to go to Boris and try to get his support. If Boris agrees with me: “Yes, you are right.” Then I feel wonderful.

But I haven't solved the problem. I made it worse. What I need to do is to go to John and say: "John, I'm so glad to work with you, I really enjoy this and this and this. But there is something that bothers me. I would like to talk with you about that." That would be the real thing to do. But Satan's tactic is for us is to want to go to someone else, not directly to the person. Do you experience feelings like that? Beware of that kind of disloyalty which leads to gossip and destruction.



D. The attitude of being faithful

1 Thessalonians 5:24 "*The One who calls you is faithful and He will do it.*" That is God setting an example for you. You are called by Him and He expects you to be just like Jesus. It was terrible in Gethsemane. He sweated blood. He didn't want to do it. He said, "If possible let me not have to do this. But if necessary it is okay." Jesus did it and that is what God is expecting of you.

1. **A good second man is always available and ready**

A good second man is there "every time the door opens." Every time a ministry takes place, every time there is work to do, he is there and he is available. A man who is not faithful says "Tomorrow morning I can't because I have to do this or that." "Tomorrow evening I was going to do something else." Or he says "I'll be there at 11 but he comes at 12." We've had administrators like that.

For instance, a whole group of coaches were ready to come to a workshop. They stood on the train platform and asked, "So where are the tickets?" He said, "Ah, tickets! I did not buy them yet." How can it be? The administrator hadn't bought the tickets for them. They had left early in the morning, came with the bus from the little village and were waiting at the train station, but they had to go home and they couldn't come. A good second man does his job and does it well. A good second man does his job ahead of time. And a good second man does his work without having to be told.

2. **You may be called to wear several hats.**

You may be asked to be administrator, you may be asked to be coach, lead an workshop or to be manager for a month while the boss is traveling or is sick. You may be asked to do several things. Sometimes mundane things or "a woman's things". Your job is simply to do anything and everything to make your pastor successful in his service for God.

3. **Never frustrate the leader's goals.**

For instance, don't schedule a workshop on the same date that he has already scheduled another meeting. Do as much as you can to relieve the administrator of details that will hinder his concentration on the rather more complicated things. The administrator is supposed to make that 3-year plan for the future. Assist him with faithfully taking care of the practical details for today. You make sure that the ministry is running good this month and this quarter. When obstacles arrive show deference and place his priorities above your own.

E. The attitude of being a separated second man

II Corinthians. 6:17, "*Therefore come out from them and be separate. Touch not the unclean thing and I will receive you.*" You are supposed to be clean people. Not involved in worldly things. We have had people who made merchandise of the Gospel, who were selling the Gospel. The Bible says don't make merchandise of the Gospel. But we had some people who were given some money for spiritual work but did some business with it and then later gave the money back. That is not right. If someone gives you money for spiritual things that is what it is for, not to do business. Be clean financially. Be clean with the opposite sex. Be clean in any business affairs.

1. **Your life must be exemplary so as not to detract from the bigger ministry.**

For instance I was told about one very wonderful brother but his house was a mess. It was terrible just to be there and the children couldn't play or study. So people avoided visiting at his house. It is sad. It is really sad. The Bible concretely says that a spiritual overseer must have his own house in order. Yours and your family's life must be exemplary. Do not neglect you family. It is a key and integral part of your total ministry.

2. **Be faithful to visit people individually and strive to win souls of unbelievers.**



To visit and win unbelievers. Be faithful to work with unbelievers. Be sure you tithe your time in this area. Dedicate a portion of your time weekly to win souls for Christ.

3. *Be the husband and father worthy of the position you have as an administrator.*

You are not an ordinary husband. You are also the child of God. You are not only a husband that is a child of God; you are a spiritual head . You are not only a spiritual head ; you are one of the heads of the ministry . You are not only an administrator; you are at the top of your province. The whole province knows you and looks at you. 1Timothy 3 :12.

So we have covered various attitudes, namely the attitudes of being subordinate, obedient, loyal, faithful, and being separated. So we've looked at who you need to be as the second man. Whenever you hear of a problem with an administrator just stop and think if it is not one of these points you hear problems about.

Now we are going to look at some hindrances which keep us from being effective.

II. HINDRANCES TO BEING EFFECTIVE AS NUMBER TWO

A. Jealousy towards the boss supervisor

You know, I think I could do it a lot better than the supervisor does. Or, actually I have more education than the principal has. Here is what you need to know about jealousy. Jealousy comes from not realizing that your present insight, temperament and skill do not allow you to be number one. Jealousy causes you not to realize these things. In other words we are saying: jealousy is caused because you don't realize perhaps that God hasn't prepared you enough yet to be the main leader . God has prepared you partly already; you are now already a key organizer or an administrator. But He hasn't prepared you all the way yet.

So let's repeat this important statement. Jealousy comes from not realizing that your present insight, temperament and skill do not allow you to be number-one. In other words you should be thinking, what did God see in the heart and life of brother Benjamin to make him the mission authority . What does God see in your heart, Grisha, that right now you are administrator? What is in his heart that right now he is the boss? You think about that and you begin to think, God what can I learn from my principal ? Then you open your heart, you open your mind. You become willing to learn. When you learn, when you grow, perhaps you too will be the main pastor later.



B. Pride

As your skill grows you are tempted falsely to assume that you should be number one. "I can do this already better than last year and I've already been doing this for three years." A second man may have higher education or he may have some specific experience. Possibly he has been serving longer in his position and the chief is a newer man. So he may feel that he knows more about the ministry than the chief . The ugly mean element of pride is that people who have it are convinced that they are not prideful. Pride is a satanic twisting of what is truly right.

C. Blurred vision

What is a blurred vision? Failing to realize that perhaps God wants you to remain number two indefinitely. God's desire for you may be to hold up your chief's arms in the battle. Aaron and Hur held Moses' arms in the battle. Not all people will be executives. In your province there are possibly 50 students. In 10 ten years time will all of them be executives ? No, I don't think so. That is the story from Moses. Some people saw Joshua in the battle. He was the General. There were some people who were praising him. They've seen the general. There were some other people who compared him with Moses. They were saying: "See Moses was doing it this way and everything went well." When Joshua was doing things that way all went terrible. See, all about man number one — Moses. The Bible tells: it is not Joshua, it is not Moses but it was Aaron and Hur because they did certain specific things. Ah, Moses was a good man. Yeah, he was a good chief . But in reality it was the job of Hur and Aaron. Joshua was just a tool and Moses had nothing to offer but his body. Possibly he was praying all day. I'm very happy I'm not Moses because who is doing better, Joshua, Moses or Hur and Aaron? I'm glad I'm not God and I do not need to judge. You can thus think of your

position as just temporary or you can think that with your capabilities God wants you to be the second man for life. Be thankful for that. Be proud of it. Consider your position as a special one

D. No servant's heart

Next question. Do I have a servant's heart or do I not have a servant's heart? Write these two items down on two separate lines and answer that question. It takes practice to have a servant's heart. I know when I was younger I didn't have a servant's heart at all. I wanted to eat first, drink first, sit down first. Go through the door first. It takes practice to just hold back and help someone else be first. There is another lecture series on heaving a servant's heart (Bi16, 17, 18).

Having a servant's heart means you don't need to be told what to do. It is not just waiting for instructions and then obeying them, that is obedience. Heaving a servant's heart means that you have developed a feel for the needs of your master. You can read his mind and you take care of it before he even needs to ask. Your heart beats as one with him and you continually meet his needs, spoken and unspoken.

E. Who gave this to me?

Make a list of all your work, your assignments, things you have to do. Ask: "Who gave this to me?" If they are not from God, then what does God want you to do? Here is a warning I want to give you. You are not an administrator so that you can straighten out the boss's ministry, the work of the principal. You are supposed to be his helper. You are supposed to make him successful. Do not try to do things just a little bit different from what he has specifically asked you to do. Another warning: Examine your tasks. Did your manager actually ask you to do that, or have you picked up extra monkeys on your own. If you do, you have lost track of what your manager desires and you will burn yourself out with other activities instead of the priorities your principal has.

III. THE GLORIOUS PRIVILEGE OF BEING THE SECOND MAN

Do we have some good Biblical examples of second men? You bet! And lots of them! And their virtues are a glorious shining example to us. In this section we will take a look at several of them.

A. It is the highest level to model Christian virtues

Many Christian virtues can best be practiced if there is an objective higher than the participant. Virtues like subordination, obedience, faithfulness and loyalty are necessary for all believers on various levels in the chain of command. Yet the higher up in the chain of command, the better these virtues are demonstrated. Obedience is normal for a soldier but it is a virtue for a general. Women, children and young people practice these virtues and it is considered normal. But by God's grace an administrator has come to the second place of leadership already and for him it is a virtue to display these qualities. Aaron's name is forever disgraced by several wrong acts whereas Joseph's and Daniel's are gloriously exalted.

B. It is the place of the highest practicality and respect

The higher position an executive receives, the further removed from involvement in daily life he usually becomes. Often the main executive is busy with secondary involvements in other ministries, or he travels a lot, or his job requires his time and effort further up the ladder, or he may become more aloof. Usually there is some distance between the highest executive and reality.

The position of the second man is to bridge this gap. So in essence he becomes the real leader. He does nearly everything and he basically is the boss, except his authority is **delegated authority**. Often this is an unseen item and even more often it is a forgotten item. Frequently coaches and students respect the second man even more than they do the superintendent. This is a glorious privilege. Being the second man is therefore occupying **a very sacred place** and few there are who can stay humble and clean before God for a long time.

C. With God there is no “greatest” person

With God there is no second man or first man. This is a mentality from sinful man. Jesus made it clear that with God the issue of “being the greatest” does not exist. He made this clear in His dialogue about the foot washing and in His treatment of desired priority by James and John. Jesus also selected people from all levels of life to be His disciples and made no distinction there. Only afterwards did He let the most educated and capable Jew participate in His ministry. The second place therefore is not only one of great privilege but also one of great opportunity.

Not only is God no respecter of persons, but He even specializes in selecting and using the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; *God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things-- and the things that are not -- to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.* I Corinthians 1:27-29 *Brothers think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God -- that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: «Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.»* I Corinthians 1:26, 30-31

You are God’s specially selected choice. He wants to accomplish something unique and He has chosen you as the privileged person for this task. What a glorious opportunity He has placed in your holy hands to be a second man. Don’t ignore it, don’t despise it, treasure it with all your heart. It may be a once-in-a-life-time opportunity.

Jesus was the greatest ‘second man’ that ever lived. He was not God the Father. He took upon Himself some limitations. Philippians 2:6-8 *Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death -- even death on a cross!*

The climax of Jesus’ ‘second place’ experience is that therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, Philippians 2:9. With the result *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,* Philippians 2: 10-11a

With the ultimate delight of and to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:11b

Brother if you are a “second man” you have an image to uphold. A God to glorify, a privilege to treasure and an opportunity to demonstrate deference.

CONCLUSION

It would make a good study to analyze the glorious second man virtues of numerous Biblical and great historical figures. Think of Joseph and Daniel, what a lifetime of beautiful service they rendered to God first of all and to their adopted countries secondly. But there are others like Eliezer the most worthy servant of Abraham trusted even to select a wife for his master’s son. Study David the rejected second man under Saul. Study the great influence of the disciple of love who never seems to have reached first place.

God placed you in a very special position because He knew just exactly what help that pastor or overseer needed and who the special person was with the right character and gifts to help this pastor or overseer .

Being the second man is a most worthy and trustworthy place. Don’t despise what God so generously has set before you. Being the second man is occupying a sacred place. Guard this special privilege with the greatest vigilance.

If you are one of these special second men we ask you to close this lecture and lead out with a prayer of thanksgiving.

Blessings to you, our dear friends!

We are happy to present the video, audio and paper materials that have been prepared by **New Life for Churches**. You have the privilege *upon completion of your practical assignment* to use this lecture with others.

Practical assignment

- Spend a whole day in prayer and make a list of all the benefits of the job, lifestyle and position of a “second man.” Bring your list to the next seminar to encourage other “second men”.

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