

## **Do faithful ministries**

Ezra 3:8-13

Cyclical deductive

**Topic:** Do faithful ministries

**Subject:** The means Christians should do faithful ministry

**Complement:** is to do it through all people's participation under the leader's direction, in a worshipful way, with all people's witnesses.

**Purpose:** To encourage brothers and sisters be faithful when doing ministries.

### **Introduction:**

#### **1. [Stewardship]**

The story of a faithful dog named Hachik.

Once there was a little dog adopted by a Japanese professor as his beloved pet, which was given the name Hachik. His master daily commuted to work, while he saw his master off to the station and awaited his returning everyday precisely when the train was due at the station. But one day, his master never came back, in the following nine years, nine months and fifteen days. It used its whole life to pay back his favour and love, even though his master only sent less than one year with him. A dog can be loyal like this, which truly brings huge impacts to us humans. His legend has been passed on over generations and generations, encouraging lots of people. Dogs can be faithful and loyal servants of man.

**2. Need:** Do you want to be a faithful servant of God? Do you want to please the Lord? Do you want to achieve fruitful ministries? Which specific ways or examples of doing ministries given in the Bible are biblically sound and pleasing to God?

**3. Subject:** How should we do ministries? How to make the ministries fruitful? How to make our ministries biblical?

**4. Background:** Judahites were captured into exile by Babylon first and then Persians. They had suffered losing their homeland and Holy Temple. Now under the edict of King Cyrus, the Judahites were allowed to go back to Jerusalem to rebuild their beloved and demolished Holy Temple. Still, animosities among adjacent Gentiles incubate, waiting to overturn them.

**5. Preview:** Today we are going to explore some effective ways to do ministries in Ezra 3:8-13.

Restatement: God provides us special instructions in terms of serving the Church and Him. The verses in Ezra 3:8-13 give us examples how the ancient Judahites built the Holy Temple, so we can apply it into our ministries later.

What's the first image of the constructing scenario that emerges in your mind?

A huge amount of work conducted by people in an organized order. So the basic condition needed to achieve this work is a good disciple.

**I. Faithful ministries should be done by everyone in an organized way under the leaders. (8-9)**

A. Ministries should have everyone in Church participate in. (8a)

When I do internship in my church, I see my pastor changing the toilet roll, I was wondering what is a pastor's duty in the church?

a. Counselling people b. Bible teaching c. Social events that unites congregations and build rapport. d. Community work helping people e. Solemnizing weddings or hosting a funeral f. Administration works in the church. g. Logistics h. Visitations I. Evangelization

As long as the pastor or leader in the church is a normal person that made up of blood and flesh, he can never do the heavy work which only a transformer can manage. Especially, he can't fulfil the evangelisation work on his own.

Moses: he assigned commanders of the thousands and commanders of the hundreds, to fulfil the judgement work. Otherwise he wouldn't be available to go up to the Mountain Sinai, and later he wouldn't die by the Jordan river looking at the Canaan land, instead, he would die of having muscle pains due to sitting still all day or due to total demise of his brain cells.

Also, you may not be able to see the Twelve going out preaching Gospel, they may need Jesus to redescend himself to the earth to say to them "The twelve, the twelve, you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed..." Because they could properly be busy with waiting on tables while there are not seventy deacons helping them out.

In the Missiological class, we know that missions should be carried out by everyone in the church, instead of only by the pastors. We are all bodies of Christ, we all need to function as different parts of the body. Imagine, if you have a huge tumour on your face, he says to you 'The only thing I need to do is to receive the nutrition and grow, I don't need to make contributions.' What are you going to do with the tumour that grows bigger everyday? I don't think you would say you look beautiful and I am so honoured to have a huge tumour with me. Apparently, you will cut it off mercilessly. So will those who don't do ministries be judged by God at the end of the day.

B. Ministries should be done in an organized way under leaders' directions. (8b-9)

There was once a very poor old father, he wanted to pass his inheritance to his two sons. They lived in very very poor regions and had to strive very hard to find a grim chance of surviving. The only thing he had a fish and a fishing rod. The younger son picked the fish, and the older son picked the fishing rod. Who do you think is cleverer? Actually, both of them died as they didn't know how to coordinate with one another. The one who got the fish ate the only fish he had, and died of starvation before long. The one who got the fishing rod went to the sea to fish, but he had no bait nor food, he died before any fish was caught. Because they don't know how to cooperate with one another.

By no means will a church stand if everyone seeks to feed his own desire, similarly, when it comes to carrying out ministries, there are many different approaches. How to substantially manage the ministries? How to unify everyone? How to finalise the measures taken to fulfil the ministries? By following the leader's direction and cooperating with one another. With a clear and accurate goal set by the leader, it's of less strength and difficulties to shoot the bull's eyes.

(After having the broad framework of doing ministries, how to guarantee the ministries are biblical and pleasing to God? )

## **II. Faithful ministries should be done in a worshipful manner and revolve around God. (10-11)**

1. The ministries are for the glory of God, and should be done in worshipping God.

Satan is very cunning, one of Satan's scheme is: Let Christians be involved in soul-winning. But crowd their lives with so many good causes they have no time to seek power from Christ. Soon they will be working in their own strength, sacrificing their health and family unity for the good of the cause. Consequently, Christians become task-doers and ministers become slave of alleged good causes, due to intense ministries and lack of empowerment of the Holy Spirit, then the church quickly burnt out.

Or have you ever experienced this, when people praise you: Evan you are so proactive in ministries, Lima you are so versatile in musical ministries, Cristine you are so such a gentle and caring dajie to others, or Sarah you are so intelligent in teaching, or even Angie you are so elegant when delivering a speech? Then you may probably say 'no lah, I still need improvements', 'thank you lah, I did nothing but God did this lah'. While deep inside, your heart enjoys the praise and you become full of yourself, while failing to really attribute the glory to God?

Eventually, we are building our own Babel for the glory of ourselves and fail to understand the essence of serving God. At this point, think about what happened to Herod, worms consumed him when he served his own glory and imagine your finger was now bitten by something. You may realize this is actually very serious.

To deter yourself from doing so, you have to bear in mind that the essence of doing faithful ministries is for the glory of God. Thus, faithful ministries should be conducted in a worshipful manner and always revolve around God. I think you all have read the conviction during combined chapel for many times, the principal has his reason to have us repeat that so many times. Let me restate, faithful ministries should be done in a worshipful manner and revolve around God. Just as the Levites praised the Lord when building the foundation of the Holy Temple.

(Internally, we need to guarantee our intention is pure, but people can't see your heart, how to make sure your service is faithful? People can only see outside, thus external demonstration should follow the internal reverence so as to make the ministries faithful both internally and externally. )

## **III. Faithful ministries should be under the witnesses of all the church members. (12-13)**

1. Everyone should be the witness of the ministries in the church.

Faithful ministries should be done for the glorification of God and edification of people, thus, all the Christians in the church may need to witness the process of the fulfilment of the ministries. The reason for doing so is to:

To supervise the church leaders as well as to protect them from temptations. Remember the scandals happened no matter here in the City Harvest church under the leadership of Kong Hee or in the biggest global church in the world under the leadership of David Yonggi Cho, or in other places in the world, to name a few. The pastors are initially good brothers and will still be our

brothers, it's the congregation's responsibilities to witness the ministries in the church so as to protect them and guarantee the faithfulness and proper functioning of the ministries.

Another reason is to adore God's glory in the midst of the ministries. Psalm 27:3 'One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.' God's glory and presence abide in the midst of the faithful ministries, as we serve the Lord, we experience Him and we grow in Him. Thus, we should actively witness the ministries made or planned by the church.

(We need to have everyone witness us when doing ministries so as to guarantee we abide by God's commandments and are faithful. Let's recap these teachings about faithful ministries. )

**Conclusion:**

1. Faithful ministries should be done with everyone's participation and witnesses and under the leader's directions.(MI.)
2. By having individual's witness and participation and the leader's directions, we can achieve faithful ministries. (Restate MI.)
3. Application: ABWW: All should be involved in ministries. Let's all of us come to serve the Lord. Obedience to the leader's directions in conducting ministries. Ministries should be done in a worshipful manner while under the witness of all the people in the church.
4. End: Why? Because Angry Black Witch Watches you.