



## Day 26

April 4

by

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### Getting It Straight”

Early in my pastoral ministry I was challenged by our Father about the role of ministry, into which I had been called several years earlier. I was educated in leadership and pastoring.

One weekend I and our deacons travelled to a sister Baptist church to meet with their deacons for a retreat.

After the lunch on the Saturday, a group travelling with Revival Fellowship out of Saskatchewan and visiting that town were invited to meet all of us and share what God was doing across the West. In the prayer circle there was one empty chair in which anyone could sit, for prayer. I privately felt ‘pushed’ to sit there. Two of their leadership team then invited me to another room after I got the courage to receive prayer; for what I was not clear.

As they questioned me before they prayed for me, they discovered my role, my family, marriage and education. They were very tender towards me.

Then I was asked: “George, the seminary education you have, whose is it?” I thought about what they were trying to get at and desired give the ‘right’ answer. I finally said: “it is from the Father, so it’s His.”

“George whose child is your son?” We had one child at the time. “He is God’s”. “Your wife, Judy. Whose is she?” “The Father’s”.

Then I was asked: “And the church you are pastoring: Whose is it?”

Right then I was brought up short, realizing I was carrying the local church by myself as a pastor. It was ‘my church’ - with all that pressure to perform. I broke down. They prayed for me to release that church.

In one of our selected texts today we read:

*“The prophets follow an evil course and use their power unjustly.”* Jeremiah 23:10b.  
*“Both prophet and priest are godless; even in my temple I find their wickedness,”* vs. 11.  
Are you a leader in our fellowship today? Maybe as a teacher, pastoral staff, elder, board member, spouse, parent, sibling? How do you view that role, that honor? As we approach Lent together, realize that the 5<sup>th</sup> and last purpose of Lent is ‘denial of ego’.



And then:

*"I will have mercy on whom I have mercy and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."*

<sup>16</sup> *It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy.* Romans 9:15-16.

By God's grace, we are redeemed and are reminded of that this Lent. We are humbled by God's care, love and gentleness towards us. He intends to grow us from a baby believer to a mature believer, over our lives, if we allow Him to do so. Lent is part of that process for each of us.

**Prayer:** *Precious Father, thank You for Your love for me, for my abilities and spiritual gifts given, for my experience of forgiveness in Christ, Your Son. I acknowledge today my propensity to pride, to a tendency to encourage the use of power in relationships, to fail to listen to peers and loved ones. I confess wrong attitudes towards others whom I serve, love and with whom I work. Thanks for hearing my confession as I prepare for Lent, today. Amen.*

**Scriptures:** Psalm 102; Jeremiah 23:9-15; Romans 9:1-18; John 6:60-71