

“I Alone Am Not Able!”

Numbers 11:1-23 (esp. v. 14)

Way too few Pastors come to the place early in their ministry where they realize they cannot do alone what God has called them to do with others. The Bible never speaks of great men of God who were “lone rangers” - great followers of God, great servants of people, great leaders of leaders, but never lone-rangers. Ultimately, every great leader learns to share ministry with others. Consider, from this passage, the need for and nature of shared ministry in the church.

I. The NEED for shared ministry (vv. 1-15) - Why We Need It!

A. The PEOPLE need shared ministry (vv. 1-10)

1. When complaining is more common than commendation (v.1)
2. When greed is more common than generosity (v.4)
3. When “our best days are behind us” (v.5)
4. When dissatisfaction dominates conversations (v.6)
5. When families are broken and blended and burdened (v. 10)

B. The PASTOR needs shared ministry (vv. 11-15)

1. To alleviate feelings of FRUSTRATION (vv. 11-13)
2. To eliminate feelings of ISOLATION (v. 14)
3. To abbreviate feelings of DESPERATION (v. 15)

II. The NATURE of shared ministry. (vv. 16-23) - How We Do It!

A. It is a ministry THROUGH PEOPLE (vv. 16-17)

1. Through COMMITTED people (vv. 16-17)
2. Through CONSECRATED people (v. 17)

B. It is a ministry TO PEOPLE (vv. 18-20)

1. To a DOUBTFUL people (vv. 18c, 20c)
2. To a DISSATISFIED people (v. 18b)

C. It is a ministry of GOD (vv. 21-23, esp v. 23)

1. The Lord’s POWER IS UNLIMITED (v. 23a)
2. The Lord’s WORD IS UNRESTRAINED (v. 23b)

God’s work is always initiated by Him. He quickly calls His obedient servants to join Him in His work. Soon, God’s work is underway and God is meeting the spiritual, mental, emotional, financial and social needs of people through the witness and obedient service of those whom He has dispatched—those who are willing to share ministry.