

MESSAGE TITLE

GATHERING OF THE SHEPHERDS

MESSAGE DATE

SESSION 3 – THURSDAY SEP 22, 2011 (MORNING)

SCREENS> half of the churches in the US have 75 people or less, with 90% of the churches having 350 people or less, still, half of the individual church-goers are part of churches that have more than 350 people.

SCREENS> Where are you?

SCREENS> Where do you want to be?

SCREENS> Why?

SCREENS> How do you plan to do it?

Or what is your

SCREENS> Methodology?

Now what I'm getting reading to say, I mean, I really don't consider myself to be a renaissance man. I don't know much about how to get women, the only woman I've ever loved and slept in the bed with all night, made children with is sitting right there. She's my wife, my mistress, and my baby's momma. I've never been drunk or high in my life and the only thing on my record is a speeding ticket, because my least developed fruit of the spirit is patience. Sometime I even drive too fast. So my new year's testimony would make you fall asleep. All I do other than love my family is pastor. It's in my opinion the only thing I'm natural good at. **(Work)**

- I've been interested in church growth in strategy for over 20 years
- I taught my first class at 15 years old
- At 18 I was teaching the men's Sunday school class to men old enough to be my grandfather.
- At 22 I was an ordained deacon (whatever that is)
- At 24 I was preaching all over the city
- At 27 I was called to pastor my first church

I opened and locked up my home church pretty much every Sunday and Wednesday for over a decade, I served in Christian Ed, Sunday school; I even sang in two choirs and could not sing.

I know church and ministry. I have a doctorate degree in ministry as opposed to a Ph.D. because I don't desire the academy, I desire ministry. My point is this is what I do!!!

Listen to me and take a lot of notes!!!!

As I said on yesterday this year I've decided to put you in categories

SCREENS> Do or die

SCREENS> 75 or less with no real momentum

SCREENS> Steady as you grow

About 100-600 with **upward** momentum

Remember I said *upward momentum!!!*

SCREENS> Unusual favor

700 or more

To those of you who are in the do or die category first or foremost you must ask yourself:

SCREENS> Am I called to be a Senior Pastor?

(Work)

You may not have all the gifts, you may not be a hooper a singer, you may not have any seminary training, but the one thing every pastor must have is

SCREENS> SOME MEMBERS

Enough people to do:

SCREENS> relevant ministry

SCREENS> evangelism, outreach, In-reach, existential impact

SCREENS> A leader with no followers is just taking a walk

SCREENS> don't pay to be a pastor

(Really work here on guys who are determined to call themselves senior pastor)

SCREENS> Seek God for confirmation

I use deductive reasoning, the quicker I find out what I'm not, the quicker I find out what I am!!

(Work that!!)

Alright, once you've settled the issue:

SCREENS> diagnose the problem

SCREENS> something is wrong

Cornel West was having a heated debate with someone, when it was clear that neither side would bulge. He said and I quote, "One thing for certain. Somebody wrong"

SCREENS> If the call is right, the methodology must be wrong.

In this fellowship, I've seen about 100 churches go from barely making it to good momentum.

The first thing you must do if you are in the do or die category is:

SCREENS> read or reread Size Does Matter

SCREENS> Facilities

(Work)

SCREENS> marketing

SCREENS> creativity

SCREENS> dress

SCREENS> preaching style

To those of you that are in the steady as they grow and even the unusual favor contexts

SCREENS> don't forget the bridge that brought you over

SCREENS> Amos 6:1 NASB Woe to those who are at ease in Zion And to those who *feel* secure in the mountain of Samaria,

(Work)

Remember I told you that momentum goes both ways?

SCREENS> Rest while you work

SCREENS> Never stop pursuing

SCREENS> Seasons inevitably shift and change

SCREENS> 1 Chronicles 12:32 NASB- Of the sons of Issachar, men who understood the times...

You have to see what's coming! **(Deal with the Word North move during the recession)**

AJ When I start talking about the North Satellite get the first Video ready to play of all of our offices. (After video go right back to the notes)

The atmosphere of your church, the morale (Culture) of your leaders ...

We just introduced a new ministry called the:

SCREENS> fire starters

SCREENS> you get paid to think

Remember the three stages of leadership

SCREENS> with them

SCREENS> in front of them

SCREENS> The Jethro principle

SCREENS> Exodus 18:17-18 Moses' father-in-law said to him, "The thing that you are doing is not good. **18** You will surely wear out, both yourself and these people who are with you, for the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone.

Every leader sit up in your seat right here and pay attention.

SCREENS> Exodus 18:19 Now listen to me: I will give you counsel, and God be with you. You be the people's representative before God, and you bring the disputes to God, then teach them the statutes and the laws, and make

known to them the way in which they are to walk and the work they are to do.

If you don't want your pastor to ultimately reach verse 19 please resign immediately!

SCREENS> above them

SCREENS> Exodus 17:9-12 So Moses said to Joshua, "Choose men for us and go out, fight against Amalek. Tomorrow I will station myself on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand." **10** Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought against Amalek; and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. **11** So it came about when Moses held his hand up, that Israel prevailed, and when he let his hand down, Amalek prevailed.

SCREENS> **12** But Moses' hands were heavy. Then they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it; and Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other. Thus his hands were steady until the sun set.

(Work heavy hands)