

A BORROWED MINISTRY NEVER CUTS IT

2 Kings 6:1-7

And the sons of the prophets said to Elisha, "See now, the place where we dwell with you is too small for us, ² please, let us go to the Jordan, and let every man take a beam from there, and let us make there a place where we may dwell."

So he answered, "Go." (Get Connected)

³ *Then one said, "Please consent to go with your servants."*

And he answered, "I will go." ⁴ So he went with them. And when they came to the Jordan, they cut down trees. ⁵ But as one was cutting down a tree, the iron axe head fell into the water; and he cried out and said, "Alas, master! For it was borrowed." (The ministry must be your own revelation) (Get Yer Own)

⁶ *So the man of God said, "Where did it fall?" And he showed him the place. So he cut off a stick (Helve/Handle), and threw it in there; and he made the iron float. ⁷ Therefore he said, (Get a Grip on it) "Pick it up for yourself." So he reached out his hand and took it.*

Expansion of the Work

'... And let every man take a beam ...' The meaning is, "Let us all join in the work, each cutting beams and carrying them; and the work will soon be accomplished. And let us make us a place there." They propose to build the new dwelling on the banks of Jordan, to save the trouble of conveying the materials a long distance. These faithful, sacrificial, and devoted men of God were doing a good work approved by THE SERVANT OF GOD & with THE SERVANT OF GOD.

NB: THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE SERVANT OF THE TRINITY. Elijah represents The Holy Spirit using God's people to extend the Kingdom of God upon The Earth.

THE WHOLE AXE IS THE MINISTRY OF THE SAINTS ... EXTENDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

NB: GOD HAS CHOSEN TO INCREASE HIS KINGDOM ON EARTH THROUGH THE GOOD WORKS OF HIS PEOPLE. *The man of God may be fully equipped ... ready for every good work.* (2 Timothy 3:17)

SLIDE AXE HEAD – THE WORD OF GOD

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even as far as the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrows, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

SLIDE HANDLE - OUR PERSONAL REVELATION OF THE WORD

ITS REVELATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

THAT QUALIFIES YOU FOR THE MINISTRY OF GOD

Galatians 1:11-12 SLIDE

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. ¹² For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 3:1-3 **SLIDE**

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—² if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, ³ how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already,

IT WAS BORROWED – IT WASN'T HIS OWN

THIS MAN DIDN'T HAVE HIS OWN PERSONAL REVELATION

OF THE WORD OF GOD. **NOT A PART OF THE MAN ...**

GOD HAS NO GRANDCHILDREN

YOU CAN'T GIVE SOMEONE ELSE'S TESTIMONY. You can only use it as an illustration

2 Timothy 2:15 **SLIDE**

Hasten to present yourself approved to God, a workman not ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

NB: THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG WITH THE AXE HEAD

THE AXE HANDLE WAS WRONG & HAD TO BE REMADE

So What Was Wrong With the Axe Handle?

SLIDE THE HANDLE WAS HEWN FROM THE WRONG TREE

What tree did it come from?

WHAT TREE DID ADAM AND EVE EAT FROM? **THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD & EVIL**

Genesis 2:17

*But of **the tree** of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it: for in the day that you eat thereof you shall surely die.*

I suggest that this axe handle had been hewn from the Adamic life ... man made ...

of human understanding ... fleshly manipulating ... intensely striving ... heavy handed ... condemning

THIS WAS THE ADAMIC WAY OF TRYING TO WIELD THE WORD OF GOD ... self-effort

PERHAPS THE MAN SINCERELY WANTED TO SEE THE WORK OF GOD EXPAND,

OR MAYBE HE WAS DOING IT BECAUSE HE WANTED TO BE A PART OF SOMETHING GOOD.

BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE A PERSONAL REVELATION OF THE WORD OF GOD.

THE CHURCH EXPANDS WITH THE SPIRIT OF GOD WORKING WITH

THE WORD OF GOD

Mark 16:20 **SLIDE**

*And having gone forth, they preached everywhere, **the Lord [The Holy Spirit]** working with ~~them~~ and confirming **the word** by the accompanying signs.*

Acts 2:42-47

*⁴² And **they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine** and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs*

were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided^[e] them among all, as anyone had need.

⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favour with all the people. **And the Lord [The Holy Spirit] added to the church daily those who were being saved.**

**THIS IS HOW THE CHURCH GREW. Not with schemes.
Not by ADVERTISING ... Not by MARKETING ...**

There were always 2 camps... the camp of Isaac & the camp of Ishmael... the camp of Sarah and the camp of Hagar... The camp of human effort – man’s way, or the camp of The Holy Spirit... God’s way.

SLIDE THE WORD SANK INTO THE WATER

THE WORD BECAME SUBMERGED IN THE WORLD SYSTEM

THE WORD FLEW OFF INTO THE WATER AND SANK IN THE WATER.

THE WATER IS THE WORLD SYSTEM ...

People use the word of God in the world system & it becomes embedded in worldliness.

THE EMERGENT CHURCH 1990s

As culture changes, a new church should emerge in response.

Most groups, however, embrace post-modernist thinking, which eventually leads to **a very liberal, loose translation of the Bible**. This, in turn, lends to liberal doctrine and theology. For example, because experience is valued more highly than reason, truth becomes relative. And Relativism opens up all kinds of problems, as it destroys the standard that says the Bible contains absolute truth, negating the belief that biblical truth can be absolute.

Being ecumenical means that compromise is taking place, and this results in a watering down of Scripture in favour of not offending an apostate.

Seeking new ways to witness to a changing culture is admirable. But utilizing ways which compromise the Truth of the Gospel in any way is nothing more than promoting false doctrine and leading others away from Christ instead of to Him.

Some use principles ... programs that work, but they are hewn from the wrong tree.

WHAT DID HE DO RIGHT

He cried out to Elijah – **THE SERVANT OF GOD ... THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

NB: Elisha was NOT judgemental, but compassionate and ministered GRACE to him.

The New Handle was cut from a ‘Tree’ a living tree by the servant of God.

The Holy Spirit (Elisha) brought him to another tree. WHAT WAS THAT TREE?

SLIDE THE CROSS

Acts 10:39

*And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on **a tree**.*

(This uses the Greek counterpart to the Hebrew *ets* = *xulon* (Xoo-Lon) - wooden substance.)

1 Peter 2:23-24

*Who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; ²⁴ who Himself bore our sins in His own body on **the tree**, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.*

Acts 5:30-32

*The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on **a tree**.*

The Holy Spirit (Elisha) brought the man HIS OWN REVELATION CUT FROM THE RIGHT TREE

THIS IS A PERSONAL REVELATION CUT FROM THE CROSS ...

REVELATION OF THE FINISHED WORK OF THE CROSS

NOT JUST ANY PERSONAL REVELATION BUT REVELATION FROM THE CROSS.

The Holy Spirit

A NEW MINISTRY SOVEREIGNLY CUT FOR HIM.

This handle was cut from this tree by the servant of God... representing the revelation of the finished work of Christ...

HE THREW THIS REVELATION OUT OVER THE WATER AND THE AXE-HEAD SWAM TO JOIN IT.

THE WORD OF GOD ATTACHES ITSELF TO THE TRUE REVELATION OF THE CROSS

That's what the word is made for.

THE REVELATION OF THE CROSS IS A MAGNET FOR THE WORD OF GOD.

NOTE CAREFULLY THE GRACE OF GOD HERE.

THE MAN DIDN'T CUT IT HIMSELF. THE MAN DIDN'T TRY AND ATTACH IT HIMSELF.

IT WAS ALL DONE FOR HIM AS HE WATCHED, GOBSMACKED.

NOW LOOK AT THE MAN'S PART, AT THE WORD OF THE SERVANT OF GOD, 'TAKE IT UP ...

PICK IT UP ... TAKE IT AS YOUR OWN NOW. I have prepared it ... the word of God is attached to it'.