

## Two Men Face Their Limitations

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by Bill Hall

Two men are rather inept in areas of public leadership. Neither is really talented in leading singing, preaching, teaching Bible class, or fulfilling other roles that are so essential to effective worship periods. Both have tried, but their inabilities in such realms are apparent, to themselves and to others. But while they share this limitation, their **attitudes** differ dramatically.

The first man draws back into a shell, manifesting all the symptoms of an inferiority complex. He feels that he doesn't belong, that others don't appreciate him. He does nothing for the benefit of the Lord's cause except to attend. He rarely visits the sick, or speaks to a visitor, or invites a newcomer into his home. "Can't" becomes the prevailing word in his vocabulary. He complains because "only a few are running things."

The second man recognizing his obvious inabilities in leadership roles, looks about for other areas in which he can be helpful. He volunteers to keep the grass mowed around the building and to see that the building is opened early at every service. He is there to extend a warm greeting to the first arrivals. This is just typical of him. He is constantly observing a need and is working in his own quiet way to take care of that need. No other man in the church is more active in the work than he is.

The first man struggles to be faithful. His feelings are so easily hurt. Every lesson that deals with greater diligence in the Lord's service, he is sure is preached directly with him in mind. He doesn't like himself and his attitude is a barrier to good relationships with others.

The second man is appreciated by all who know him. His influence is great. He is perfectly suited to the work of a deacon. His death will leave a void in the church that no one will be able to fill.

The difference in these two men can be clearly seen in the exhortation of Ecclesiastes 9:10, ***"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going."*** What the second man has and the first man lacks is **vision** to see what needs to be done (his hand finds something to do) and **initiative** to do it with his might. These two qualities enable the one to be happy, busy, useful, pleasant, influential; a lack of them leaves the other miserable, limited, sensitive, stifled by self-pity.

To our many readers who are limited in "leadership" roles, we would ask "Which of these two men presents a true picture of **you**?" Open your eyes! There are needs all about you! Get to work! "There is room in the kingdom ... for the small things you can do." Everybody can't be the quarterback; everybody can't be the chief; but everybody can contribute. Let each person find his own role, work diligently in that role, and rejoice in the contribution he can make to the Lord's work.

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