



**Ekklesia &
Prophetic Ministry**

according to

JESUS

PDF

Chapter 9

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9 Ekklesia Alignment

according to Jesus

9 - 1 The Realignment of Leadership

Part of the Ekklesia alignment is the realignment for true leadership.

After the massive exodus and going through a transitional season, one shouldn't be surprised that after reading this manual one would have questions. For some, this material resonated like a breath of fresh air. To others it may have stirred up a few questions. Then there are those who felt something underlying when reading the material, — something much deeper that can be missed with a casual read. And for those where leadership was not on the radar, they now see a model that values them as they begin to exercise their gifts and talents.

At its core, the information in the manual is a call to bring alignment both individually and organizationally to the model that Jesus released. This is what the first few sections, 'Ekklesia Rising' and 'Prophetic Ministry' is all about. In practical terms this means that everything we say, do, or think, — our attitudes, our ways of relating to everyone, our gifts, abilities, skills and the exercising of the same must all be filtered through and directed by the principles Jesus both taught and modeled. It really is about Jesus in us, and the hope of His glory!

The application of the principles in this manual is relevant to all gifts, skills, abilities, vocations and ministries. The 'Prophetic Ministry' as outlined in the manual is about speaking out what is on the heart of God, — it's all about being that true voice, that true expression of God, according to Jesus. Leaders who are part of any gathering can express these principles both personally and organizationally. I believe that this manual is sharing what has been on God's heart for some time now, — one could even argue for centuries, — His desire for His body to come together in unity, to work as a team building each other up, encouraging one another, while living, working and ministering in an Ekklesia format that Jesus both taught and modeled.

9 - 2 Establishing Ekklesia Leadership

Leadership is one area that can generate some pretty interesting conversations. Many have been hurt by bad leadership models, but in the midst of all the dysfunction, there are some good leadership models out there. Regardless of what our experience with leadership has been, we cannot escape the fact that as we get together in a group, we tend to establish something that has a leadership smell to it. And it doesn't matter how loose the organization is, or the model chosen for leadership, for the challenge is not in the accepting of what we already know to be true, the challenge is taking what we know and establishing something good out of it, — to positively process what we do know to be true.

To become the Ekklesia that Jesus modeled, our leadership and organizational values must reflect that same model. Jesus modeled how the leadership team should operate: with Him being the head of a team of individuals, having various backgrounds, skills and gifts, all operating together towards a common goal. The Kingdom that Jesus landed with came with a Kingdom application known as a five-fold ministry, a ministry that He himself walked in: Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, Teacher.

Good leadership requires transparency and vulnerability between members of the five-fold team and beyond. There needs to be a recognition of each one's strengths and weaknesses. That includes skills, abilities, natural talents and spiritual gifts. Positions may be designated, and they are not exclusive to one person only. In this model, nobody gets to walk around swinging the gavel, but at the same time there needs to be that 'go to' person to help keep it on track. Sure, some may be more qualified, but it's all about teamwork and any 'go to' person needs to have some understanding of the Ekklesia process.

We either agree or we agree to disagree, but as we gather together and inquire of the Holy Spirit, — He, Holy Spirit, will give the needed revelation to point us in the right direction. If the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are continually in agreement, then we need to come into some level of agreement with them in order to move forward. If we enquire, a revelation will come to help us walk out the very thing that is before us. As we engage with the great commandment, honouring one another, we then move forward.

If you are in a pastoral position, you really need that apostolic person around you to move forward in a big way, for he is the one that understands Kingdom dynamics like no other. And you also need that prophetic voice, that prophetic person who understands the times and the seasons for today. The same is with the evangelist and teacher. As a leader under Ekklesia, the need to lean on one another is imperative.

In our leadership models we constantly designate titles for ease in organizing groups, but leadership in any shape or form is not about titles. It is the same with any type of ministry; a person who is a leader is already leading. Someone who is prophetic is already prophesying. A teacher is already teaching. There are literally thousands of people pastoring who never have had, and never will have ‘Pastor’ as their title, but the body of Christ would be desperately weakened without them. It is who they are; who God created them to be. That is the golden vein that we really need to tap into! Beware of the person who needs a title.

When it comes to authority, power and position and the exercising of such, Jesus made His expectations of His disciples clear. In Matt 20:25-28 He stated: “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your greatest servant just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

9 - 3 Moving Forward - Change Is Never Easy

While none of this may be new, moving in this direction won’t be easy. Rarely if ever is change easy! It wasn’t easy for the Jews in Jesus’ time to accept His teaching because He challenged their traditions and practices with a power, and an authority that was never seen before.

In the same fashion, the 21st century body of Christ has picked up traditions and practices that are not necessarily in alignment with Jesus’ teaching. This is not a judgment or blame. It is a recognition that despite our best intentions, our ability to act out in our own self-interest is something that could plague us until the second coming.

Some of us have our own ambitions that we’ve buried beneath a veneer of false humility. So when change appears on the horizon, our personal agendas are threatened making us resistant to the changes regardless of how positive they might be. Preserving what we think is important may cause us to miss out on the very thing that God wants to bless us with.

Others have mindsets, attitudes or prejudices that have been taught, or allowed to become part of their lives. Change has a way of forcing us to revisit these and determine whether or not they are Godly or something that we might need to discard. A stronghold in our life is a tough thing to break.

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And finally, any attempt at change can be thwarted by poor execution while moving into the unknown. We fail to count the cost, recognize potential challenges, and/or rush ahead too quickly, not recognizing and accounting for the fact that ‘We don’t know what we don’t know’.

So Let’s Talk Model

When talking about Jesus’ model, we’re not just talking about a type of teaching or authority structure or theological approach. We’re talking about the whole package of who Jesus is: attributes, attitudes, values, approach to relationships, etc. as well as leadership/ministry style. In a practical application the question then becomes: “what is there about us, our organization that is out of alignment with Jesus?” This is the underlying challenge associated with this call, and the challenge is not for the faint of heart. It is a challenge asking us if we are willing to allow Holy Spirit to scrutinize our mindsets, traditions, and/or prejudices removing those that are contrary to His purposes and realigning us with His. It is a place of vulnerability, surrender, humility and exposure to the Holiness of God on a daily basis. It is a process, not a one-time event.

God is asking us if we are willing to let Him make us into the Ekklesia that Jesus modeled, — and that’s what seems so unnerving for a lot of us. No matter how deep our relationship with Jesus may have been in the past or how close we are today, it is a call to be willing to go deeper, and for a lot of us that may not be on our radar.

Like many believers, we have been hurt, betrayed, and rejected. So the challenge before us is: “Are we willing to let God take us into the Ekklesia that He has called us to be a part of?” The chances of being misunderstood, misinterpreted, and betrayed are realities that will no doubt surface once again with this ongoing narrative. As in the times of Jesus, — Ekklesia was not bullet proof then, nor will it be today!

It’s not going to be easy and it will be a bit of a process! But the good news out of all this is that God already knows that we don’t have what it takes to be the Ekklesia He’s called us to be. That’s why He sent the Holy Spirit to empower us, encourage us, comfort us, and work through us. We were never intended to do this on our own but in community, in fellowship, in partnership with other believers. So regardless of what our part is in the Ekklesia, we are not alone, nor are we dependent upon our own strength and resources. So how can we not answer the call and take on the challenge that God has just put before us?

A well-known philosopher and poet once quoted: “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” You may have heard different versions of this, but it remains as true today as it did back then. The writer would agree that the importance of remembering the past is so that we learn from both the successes and the mistakes, and we use what we’ve learned to make a better present and future.

As we embark on the journey of becoming the Ekklesia God intended for us to be we need to remember our past and what got us to the place that we are today. Pragmatically that means that we need to revisit both the successes and failures corporately and individually, learn from them, and use what we learn to help us succeed where we have failed in the past, to bring reconciliation and repentance where it’s needed, and to bring healing and restoration.

Past Mistakes, Hurts and Pain

Mistakes, hurts, pain, and suffering seems to be part of the life we walk. We’ve all been both perpetrators and victims. It may have been the result of unconscious oversight or malicious intent. It is irrelevant because the damage has been done. Allow it to fester long enough and the flow of bitterness and judgments move into our souls clouding our vision, dulling our ability to hear, isolating us from the love of God and others. Ephesians 4:5 mentions about one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God, one Father. There are literally thousands of confirmed denominations, and many more that are even more unconfirmed. I wonder what is perceived when those caught in the middle find themselves standing amongst the many factions of all who claim to know the Christ.

Jesus says: “. . . everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” Division is massive in this world and history teaches us that unless true forgiveness, repentance and reconciliation happens within our midst, bitterness, judgments and protective vows will continue to divide and isolate us from each other and from God. That doesn’t mean that God doesn’t move in spite of us. It means that we are limited in our ability to participate with God in what He is doing. It also limits the depth of relationship that we can experience with God and others.

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The call to become the Ekklesia God has always desired requires us to be willing to climb out of our respective trenches, at the risk of being shot at, by those who want to remain entrenched. We need to own our messes, ask for forgiveness, offer forgiveness and begin the process of reconciliation where possible.

Sadly, the body of Christ will likely never be completely unified until we are home with Him. In some cases too much time has passed, the bitterness too deep, positions are too entrenched, the divide too wide for humanity to bridge. But if we are to become the Ekklesia Jesus intended we can never stop trying whether it be one-on-one or organization-to-organization. Reconciliation and restoration with God was and is the primary mission of Jesus. Can it be any less with us?

9 - 4 Catch, Mentor, Release and then Repeat

To truly move forward it is important to honour our past; those individuals and organizations that have gone before us following the Lord to the best of their ability. Often we hear criticisms of leaders, churches, denominations, etc., about how it all got messy, along with the many individuals who have been hurt through those messes. But if it hadn't been for those particular individuals/organizations, where would we be today? That doesn't excuse bad leadership, mismanagement, corruption, or any other mistakes that may have been made.

I believe part of becoming the Ekklesia Jesus always intended is to honour the honourable things that have been accomplished by individuals and organizations today. We should really be celebrating the successes and accomplishments of those both within and outside our circle of influence. Is not everyone who has been redeemed being called to be part of the Ekklesia? If so, aren't their successes our successes?

For most of us, we have never fully understood how Holy Spirit has already equipped us. We've barely scratched the surface of the potential that He has placed within us. If we are to become the Ekklesia according to its original design, we need to tap into the wisdom gained from our past experiences (the good, the bad and the ugly), to embrace the gifts/abilities/skills that we've been given, and through prayer, discipline, and the exercising of them, we will discover their full potential as we start functioning as the Ekklesia model that Jesus originally intended.

Leaders who have read this manual may be saying to themselves, “I can really relate and somehow I need to engage, but do I have to leave my present position to engage with Ekklesia?” Many times this question is relative to the concepts of leadership and authority structures or lack thereof. Regardless of whatever leadership role that you are engaged in now, hopefully, you are in that position because God has placed you there. Unless God directs you, leaving may not be an option. Even in a highly autocratic system, each leader has the given latitude on how they can operate within that system. The real shift is in how present leadership is able to utilize their position in releasing the model of Ekklesia, — to get those who are part of their gathering to actively engage.

In very simple terms the Ekklesia model is about relationship, discipleship, mentorship and release. Look at what Jesus did with the disciples. He built a relationship with them. He taught them through teaching and with a hands-on application. Jesus then mentored them by sending them out and having them return so they could debrief all that happened. And finally He released them to make disciples of all nations. Throughout the book of Acts the Apostles and the established church/ekklesia repeated this model.

Here’s the thing. You really don’t need to make that big Ekklesia announcement, you just need to start. As a leader, you just need to set the model. Start engaging with those around you and embrace the treasures that God has deposited in them. Go from that top down system, to being a unified team, all working the harvest field together, all agreeing on the direction, honouring one another, allowing others to play their part in what God has entrusted them with, — communication being very key in all that you do when moving forward. As the Ekklesia model defines itself, the roadway will get a little bumpy . . . so we all need to be a little more patient with one another. But once its all set in motion, — it will be an explosive time!

9 - 5 Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will be Done!

So, — we really need to come to grips that the Kingdom of heaven has an order. That the Lords plan is that no sheep are left behind during this new season, that none need to fall to the wayside anymore. An alignment . . . or lets say a realignment of the original defaults need to be set in motion as to the early church so that we can all move forward as originally intended, — as modeled by Jesus.

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Hopefully we now have an understanding of what this gathering might look like in the realignment? As mentioned throughout this manual, we need to default everything that we are processing through this filter called “Jesus”. Jesus alone, and Him alone is really our safety net to make sure we never go over that cliff again. We have barely scratched the surface when it comes to “Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done”! So setting those defaults is imperative.

Where we need to change in the realignment process . . . is that our open heaven visitations need to go beyond just visitations. That our visitations transition more into that place of habitation, because things are about to accelerate for us in a big way. Dwelling fulltime in his presence is a must.

An ekklesia model, fueled by the Holy Spirit, backed by the kingdom of heaven, is what it’ll take for us to go the distance in this new season. It is this very ministry that will make sure that Jesus gets glorified and that the Kingdom is released in the measure that it so desires, — setting us up for those greater works.

Resetting the defaults according to the early church is the only thing that will get us to the finish line with the full impact of the Kingdom as Jesus demonstrated. As outlined in this manual, here are the defaults that will help us engage in a greater capacity of “Thy Kingdom Come, Thy will be done!” atmosphere.

- 1 – Identifying the true identity of Jesus.
- 2 – Identifying that true Prophetic Voice of God.
- 3 – Identifying the true model of Ekklesia as to its original design.