



SEE IT

1 Samuel 14:7 "Do what you think is best," the armor bearer replied. "I'm with you completely, whatever you decide."

In this Biblical story, Jonathan understood that while it's easier to do something alone, it's more effective when we involve others. There is a small word, with big power, and that word is *and*. It's one thing to say, it's me. Another thing to say, it's me *and* my church. What we sometimes fail to understand in this polarized society, is that we need each other. Unity multiplies impact.

OBEY IT

God created us for community. God is emphatic about giving the vision to the leader first, but not exclusively. A right vision, shared with the right people, at the right time, for the right reason, will accomplish more, in less time. Here are some of the people you'll need:

- 1. Mentors.** These are wise people you can *listen* to. They have experience and can help you find ways better serve your community.
- 2. Friends.** These are caring people you can *lean* on. They might not have all the answers, but knowing that they are there for you makes a difference. These are people that will go alongside you to reach your community.
- 3. Students.** These people who can *learn* from you. Every experience you have had is a lesson that can be shared to encourage, inspire, or warn others. They will learn from you what to do and not to do, to reach the community.

In order to finish the work God has entrusted to us we need everybody. Traditional *and* contemporary, men *and* women, youth *and* adults, 1st *and* 2nd generation, accredited colleges and self-supporting ministries. lay members *and* paid denominational employees. We are one church. When we attack each other it creates confusion in our youth, discouragement in our members, and delay in our progress. If we are going to impact, we must do so as one.

SHARE IT

1. Intentionally serve and help someone who does not agree with you on an issue.
2. Offer someone an unexpected tip.
3. Take a bottle of water and offer it to a co-worker.

My Prayer Today:

Jesus, help me play well with others. Amen.

My Thoughts _____



SEE IT

Acts 15:19 "And so my judgment is that we **should not** make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.

OBEY IT

Part of the Season of Service is paying special attention to guests that come into our churches. What do you do when they arrive? Pay attention to what guests experience in these areas:

- 1. What they hear.** Do you keep the service positive? Is the Sabbath school director happy about the ones that are there, or is complaining about the ones that aren't? Are you prone to speaking adventese or can guests clearly understand? When offering time comes, does it paint a picture of vision and progress or is it a list of complaints about bills, past dues and lack of commitment from members? People give, are attracted to, and inspired by a positive vision, not a litany of complaints.
- 2. What they see.** Clear signage is important. You know where bathrooms, children's classrooms, the sanctuary and the fellowship hall are. Do they? No! Another thing they see is clutter. The longer you are in a church the less you see the broken window held with duct tape, the ceiling that has water spots, the year old bulletins in the classrooms, the boxes, hymnals out of place, broken things in the parking lot and rusty chairs. The message that sends is this: We don't care about our church. Neither should you. Please don't come here. Were good.
- 3. What they smell.** Churches with musty smells, that reek of unattractive odors, send the message: today's service is to be endured, not enjoyed. Andy Stanley in his book *Deep & Wide*, says it best: "the physical environment does more than leave an impression; it sends a message." What changes can you make? Who can be a set of fresh eyes you could invite to take a look at your church and point out some areas of growth?

SHARE IT

1. Prepare a gift bag for the visitors that will come to church this weekend.
2. Take some soup or hot chocolate to a homeless person
3. Buy a positive, uplifting, movie and give it to a young person in your neighborhood.

My Prayer Today:

Heavenly Father, help me make the experience of the guests in my church memorable. Help me to neither ignore or overwhelm them. Amen.

My Thoughts _____