

## Divine Abdication? Ephesians 22

*It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be build up... Ephesians 4:11-12*

God's people have a responsibility. Churches do not run on pastor power. Churches do not flourish because the pastor does the works of service. The family of God does not grow because the church has a pastor. The church grows when the pastor encourages the church to do the works of service and the church family hears the call, picks up the baton and runs the race.

Jesus has an unbelievable plan. He entrusted the gospel to twelve men. He took these men as fallible as they were and called them to be with Him. That was the starting point. And after a few years of being with Him, training by association, He was crucified, resurrected and then ascended to heaven after giving this last command, "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:18-19). What a task! But how Lord? What is your plan? "When you are filled with power from above, begin in Jerusalem and then take it to the world" (Acts 1:8). What a strategy! In a nutshell, be with Jesus, get filled, go...

You may think you have not been trained, but I believe you have. How long have you been attending church? How long have you been a believer and been attending bible studies, men's or women's groups, home group, counseling sessions, Christian conferences and seminars? How many radio or television teachers have you heard? You have learned a lot by association with many teachers with various backgrounds and different messages. You may not know all the nuts and bolts and have all the answers, but you are equipped. Jesus' twelve had three years. How many have you had? The woman at the well had one day. She went back to her city and brought them to Jesus. The man that was delivered from a legion of devils had less than a day. He went back to his city and began to give his testimony. You have enough Word in you to change the world! And since you have received the Spirit, you have enough power and wisdom in you to do God's will: make disciples of the nations.

I have heard people complain over the years that they have not had enough training. You know what? It's just an excuse. Take what you have and use it. Jesus is entrusting to you the message of the gospel. He does not entrust the gospel to perfect people. He entrusts it to the weak, the poor and the lowly. Do you know what? God is a delegator. He will not come down off His throne and do the job He entrusted to His church. He commands us to slowly and blunderingly do what He Himself could have done when He was birthed upon

this earth. He does not command a legion of angels to do what He has entrusted to the church. Is this Divine abdication??? NO! It is God's way.

We have a Divine command to go to the prodigals and to the lost people of the nations, America's melting pot. Let us not abdicate the call because of some silly excuse. We are blood-bought, Word-rich, Spirit-filled believers. We have all we need, now go.