

Lesson 5: The Blessing of Spiritual Leadership
Problem Solving

I. There are four reasons why men do not problem solve:

1. They don't know _____ they are supposed to do.
2. They don't know _____ to do it.
3. They don't know _____ they should do it.
4. They look at problems as _____ instead of _____.

II. Problems will help us _____ as leaders.

Romans 8:28-29

By God's grace a problem is something I can do and will do something about.

Nehemiah 2:1-8

III. First things first: Pray and then commit to finding an answer to the problem.

Don't think, _____ I? Instead think, _____ I?

IV. Our actions or inactions can make problems _____ in number and size.

My problems always tended to multiply whenever I:

- Didn't seek biblical counsel.
- Failed to pray.
- Lost my sense of humor.
- Felt sorry for myself.
- Blamed others for my situation.
- Wished for them to go away instead of working for them to go away.

V. Don't solve people's problems, _____ them to solve their problems.

The Problem-Solving Process

1. Define the Problem:
Proverbs 18:13

2. Ask the Right Questions: Does the Bible address this issue? Who will be affected by this decision?
3. Talk to the Right People:
Proverbs 18:17
4. Get the Facts
5. Get Involved in the Process
6. Select the Best Solution: Will this glorify God and bless others?

VI. Be a _____ pleaser and not a _____ pleaser

You must lead and trust God. It may mean working through some “what if” scenarios.

VII. Recognize a _____ problem before it becomes a _____ problem.

Reactive Leader

Settle for the first solution
Focus on only the problem
Fear uncertainty
Fear taking risks
Gives up early

Proactive Leader

Pursue multiple solutions
Explore all opportunities
Trust God and seek a solution
Don’t fear failing
Perseveres in solving the problem

VIII. Homework:

1. Choose a Bible reading plan and follow it each day.
2. Memorize the Cornerstone weekly Bible verse (listed in the sermon outline each week). This week’s verse:

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.”

John 10:27-28

3. Married Men: Pray with your wife three times this week.

Single Men: Pray three times this week for the following:

1. To find your greatest joy in God.
 2. To be the spiritual leader God wants you to be.
 3. To influence others to know and worship God.
4. Evaluate your problem solving. Do people trust you to problem solve? Are you willing to be a God pleaser and not a man pleaser?

IX. Lesson 5: Discussion Questions

1. How have you done on your homework? Reading? Scripture memory? Prayer (with wife)?
2. Why is problem solving a blessing of spiritual leadership? Who does it bless? How does it bless?
3. How do problems help us develop as leaders?
4. How can our actions or inactions create more problems? What have you learned through problem solving?
5. In light of what you learned from this lesson, what can we pray for you regarding your spiritual leadership?