

“Peter asked, “Lord, is that illustration just for us or for everyone?” And the Lord replied, “A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them.” Luke 12:41-42 NLT

[lectio] // LUKE 12:35-48

Peter: “Sir, I have a question.” Peter asks his question. Jesus: Not answering his question says, “So as I was saying...” I really thought Peter’s question was a good one. Is this story about me or someone else? In DeNiro speak, “You talkin to me?” Peter asked a non-question and Jesus didn’t answer. But what he says is specifically addressed to Peter (as a future apostle, pastor and teacher), “Can you manage the others in my household?” Or, “Can you feed my sheep?” A prophet theme that comes up at breakfast on the beach. Can you, Peter, and other followers listening- manage and feed my household? Can I trust you to Pastor to shepherd my flock? Because, if you can, I personally tend to your needs - heck, I’ll even seat you and bring you food myself. If you do a great job at this, I will take care of you and reward you for excellent stewardship of my house. Jesus was instructing them about something they could not comprehend at the moment, and many still do not comprehend TODAY. “when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.” Leadership, pastoring requires MORE, not less. Leadership requires MORE accountability, MORE transparency, MORE authenticity, MORE responsibility- not less! There should be NO sense of ENTITLEMENT from the household or those who are placed in our care. There is NO sense of ENTITLEMENT when we compare to Jesus who gave his life and modeled a servant-life. Peter: “Is that story for us.” Jesus’ subtle answer: “Peter, you have no idea how much it applies to you in your future.” You have to be very careful when you ask Jesus a “non-question,” he may give you an answer that you don’t understand at the moment but will painfully understand it in your future.

[oratio]

Dad,

I have prayed and asked you questions that I DID NOT WANT answered. Should I go? Should I give? Can I have this thing that I really desire? I understand Peter’s predicament, he didn’t understand and thought he would be slightly ornery and ask. I don’t think he understood how precise and specific Jesus’ non-answer was to him. In this season of the Church, there’s a lot of single authoritative thinking, top-down, command and conquer edicts that are full of entitlement without accountability. I do not want to lead or serve in an organization that operates this way. I truly do want to lead alongside with meekness, humility and even humor. I want to care for your household well because much has been given to me and and I want to willingly submit to the added requirements that come with that blessing.

[contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root