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How has poor training or corrupt supervision kept you from being your best?

What does it mean to you that you can know the Lord?

What is one thing you will do to be a better worker under Jesus' supervision?

Jeremiah 31:34 – No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

I) If You Want...

Poor management is catastrophic. Playing favorites ruins morale. Inadequate training creates terrible results. Examples are numerous. In extreme cases, poor management ends up in mutiny and rebellion. Our spiritual lives have gone this way. We rebelled against God. There are many reasons for this—each of us has our own. There is no justification for mutiny no matter our grievances. That agreed, poor management pushed many of us over the edge. Unequal treatment, profiteering, blatant misrepresentation, all these callous out hearts toward spiritual leadership. God was ready to clean house. He has removed the dysfunctional layer of management. If you want it done right, you better do it yourself.

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♦**Stop the madness**: Direct supervisors have real power. They train workers how to do the job. They set the expectations and methods of measurement. They assign the work and manage the shifts. Good supervisors use this power as if it is their own enterprise. Poor supervisors run things for personal gain. There are many ways they use their power in ways that hurt the enterprise but benefit themselves. Jesus has come to stop the madness. “No longer shall they teach one another (Jeremiah 31:34).” The owner is revoking the power to oversee life.

♦**Idle talk**: Owner’s interests are tied to the success of the enterprise. They benefit when every worker is properly trained, equipped, and motivated to do their job well. Poor supervisors might personally benefit from someone failing and being fired. So, they tell them what they’re doing wrong rather than showing them how to get it right. God is done with our idle talk. We won’t “say to each other, ‘Know the Lord (v34),’” anymore. Jesus has stepped in to show us how to do the job.

II) Something Done Right...

At some point in our lives, while in active mutiny against God and His supervisors, we hear rumors that a new Boss has come. Someone treating workers fairly, setting them up for success. A Boss who dignifies His workers, trusts them with important tasks. He wants something done right, not corrupt gain. He’s even putting to work those who failed spectacularly under old management and burned bridges on the way out. It might be time to quit being stubborn and go see if the rumors are true.

♦**An open book**: The job can be hard. It doesn’t always make sense. Corrupt managers take advantage of that. They keep us in the dark. They count on us deciding the owner doesn’t know what He’s doing. They feed us lies and half-truths, getting us on their side, willing to go along with their crazy scheme. But God is an open book. He sends Jesus so that “they shall all know me (v34).” Now that we understand Him, things make sense. It might be hard, but the result is worth it. Jesus eliminated the confusion and corruption that came with middle management.

♦**Free to everybody**: The enterprise is so expansive it always needs more workers. Corrupt managers don’t hire people who need a lot of training, constant help, close supervision. They claim there aren’t enough good workers to increase production because they don’t want to work hard or have people they can’t control. Jesus came to expand the enterprise. He hires and trains “the least of them to the greatest (v34).” Everyone is worthy of a job and can contribute. He puts us all to work.

III) Do It Yourself...

God has been actively recruiting since we left His garden. Many of us know that there are better workers than us. He remains confident that under His supervision, we will do the job to His satisfaction. He does not waver on His decision to perfect creation through us rather than to do it yourself. We are incapable of good supervision over His enterprise. He knew that. He waited until we recognized this and would accept another’s authority. Now’s the time.

♦**Welcome home**: Pay close attention to the blessing: we will know Him. Direct knowledge that comes from intimate presence while laboring together. “I will forgive their iniquity (v34),” is an invitation, not judgment. He has been waiting to welcome home anybody who will humble themselves and be a good worker rather than a terrible supervisor. Once home, we will have the privilege of being trained by the Master Craftsman how to make beauty and project light. We will not be banished to the basement because of our past performance.

♦**Water under the bridge**: God knows that we remain the beings He created to demonstrate His beauty and light. His nature is to patiently pursue perfection at the cost of His present glory. He will “remember their sin no more (v34),” because it interferes with this pursuit. He chooses to let it be water under the bridge for the sake of His love of us, the fullness of His holiness, and the perfection of His glory to come. Jesus established this new covenant with us while showing the reality of this perfect glory. Then He offered us the torch. Are you ready for the renewal of a job worth doing?