

Leaders Take a Different Approach to the Feast of Tabernacles

The Feast of Tabernacles is truly the highlight of the year for God's people, both physically and spiritually. And the men and women who are privileged to serve as leaders in any capacity, from deacons to ministers, have an opportunity to help all of the brethren have "the best Feast ever."

To make this happen, leaders must approach the Feast with a different mindset. Take a moment to reflect on the most memorable Feasts from your early years in the Church. At the time, you probably took for granted all of the effort that went into the services, messages, activities, facilities, and other elements of what you experienced. Of course, as your role has expanded, so has your thinking.

While every leader, along with families, should take time to *enjoy* the Feast—fulfilling God's command to rejoice before Him (Deut. 16:15)—we must not allow ourselves to be overly focused on our own plans, wants and needs. Serving the brethren must be our primary goal.

Remember that, if it is to be God's Feast, His standards must prevail. As often as possible, pose these questions in your mind: Does this situation reflect the God who sits on the throne of the universe? Do all aspects of it represent His standards? This has application that is virtually limitless—from the nature of a conversation to the cleanliness of a room. If the answer is "no," then determine to rectify the situation in a wise, discreet and orderly manner.

Be ready to help where there is a need, even if it may be outside your area of responsibility. The approach of one who does not have a leader's mindset could be summed up in four words: "It's not my problem." But our outlook should be the opposite: "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others" (Phil. 2:4).

If you see or hear something that seems out of the ordinary, tell someone. Quite often, after learning of a problem that could have been prevented, those involved are left thinking, "I thought that something did not seem right about that, but I did not bring it up. If only I had!" The Feast can be a blur, and it is easy to become distracted. If something seems to be wrong or troubles you, before the thought leaves your mind, write it down if necessary—and find the appropriate crew leader or responsible person who should be notified.

Look for opportunities to teach others about areas in which you have experience. If you have been blessed with sound training or experience in an area of service, do not keep it to yourself. Paul passed this same principle to Timothy on the ministerial level: "And the things that you have heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit you to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (II Tim. 2:2).

Know when you need help in assessing or dealing with a situation. One British official whose decisions helped England lose the Revolutionary War was described as having a “partial understanding that is more dangerous than none at all.” In other words, he had some knowledge, but not enough to realize when he was “in over his head.” King David wrote that some things were simply beyond him: “Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it” (Ps. 139:6). Even his son Solomon, the wisest man of all time, wrote, “There be three things which are too wonderful for me, yea, four which I know not...” (Prov. 30:18). How much more could we say the same? Ask God for the wisdom, and strive for the humility, to know when this applies to you.