

## **A MISTAKE OFTEN MADE WHEN MOVING ON**

Things have been happening very quickly in Leafs Nation over these past ten days. After the Leafs were eliminated in Game 7 in the first round of the playoffs, once again by the Boston Bruins, players began to clean out their lockers and do interviews with the Toronto media two days later. Then on Thursday afternoon we learned the Leafs had fired their coach, Sheldon Keefe. On Friday morning the chairman, president, and general manager of the Leafs gathered for a press conference to share their plan to examine carefully everything about the team with the goal of making whatever changes are needed to bring a Stanley Cup to Toronto. A lot of things transpired in such a short time frame after the Leafs lost in Game 7 to the Bruins.

This past Monday morning I was surprised to learn how quickly the Leafs were moving on in the search for a new coach. While listening to a radio broadcast I heard the Leafs had already interviewed one coaching candidate on Saturday and another was flying in that morning to be interviewed. The Leafs are obviously moving forward fairly quickly in their search to hire the next coach of the team.

I began to wonder after hearing this, has Leaf management taken the time they said they would to learn any valuable lessons before moving on in this search? Sadly, moving ahead without properly reflecting on important lessons that can be learned from past experiences is a mistake so many people make. This pattern is especially frustrating to God because Scripture makes it very clear how He desires for us to take time to reflect upon experiences so we can learn from them before moving on to the next task.

One place where we see this desire from God is found in the book of Lamentations. In this book, written by Jeremiah, he is grieving the loss experienced from seeing the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem by the Babylonians, and the people of Judah having been led off into exile. In Chapter 3, God provides Jeremiah with a ray of hope that one day he and his fellow Israelites will move on to experience fresh mercies again in their homeland as a result of God's faithful love. Before God helps them to move on, He shares with Jeremiah these lessons He wants the Israelites to learn from this previous experience.

**Let them sit alone in silence beneath the Lord's demands. Let them lie face down in the dust for there may be hope at last. Let them turn the other cheek to those who strike them and accept insults from their enemies. For no one is abandoned by the Lord forever. Though He brings grief, He also shows compassion because of the greatness of His unfailing love. (Lamentations 3:28-32)**

We discover here the lessons God wants the people to take away from this experience before moving on include learning:

- the importance of sitting in silence with God so He can share lessons with us,
- the importance of having humility in our relationship with Him,
- the importance of having self-control and a willingness for forgiveness,
- the importance of having a confident trust and patience in God as He helps us to move forward in hope.

In every situation in life, we need to understand God has short-term or long-term lessons in mind for us in order to help us grow in our walk with Him. We see this truth very clearly in God's desire for Jeremiah and the people to learn certain lessons from this time in their lives. Let's make sure we never lose sight of the lessons God wants us to learn by taking the time needed to sit in silence with Him and reflect before moving on. If we choose to move on without taking the time to learn these lessons from God, we may begin to experience the same disappointing results over and over again that the Leafs do at playoff time.

Are the Leafs moving too quickly in search of their next coach without learning necessary lessons from this past year? I guess we will know the answer to that question a year from now. As we wait to discover this answer, let's not wait in learning the lessons God wants us to learn.

God bless,

Pastor Dean