

“When God Calls You To Go, Leave The House Better Than You Found It ...”

By Natalie Thomas Runion

Give your oversight or pastoral covering plenty of notice when possible. Two weeks is professional, two months is too long.

Have systems and protocols in one place to help your successor be successful. Leave them what you wish you'd had when you started – important names, numbers, emails or documents in an organized file.

Promptly return church issued keys, laptops or other materials to the appropriate departments with thank you cards to those who served you behind the scenes.

Celebrate the good memories in public and learn from the bad in private or with a counselor or mentor. If there are concerns of abuse or toxic leadership, address those with HR, not a peer or congregant.

Be gracious where grace was shown, be thankful for what you were given, forgive where you can and let go of what you can't carry with you.

Leave the House and it's people better than you found them ... how we go from one is how we will enter another.

Don't carry old dirt into new seasons.

I believe in going when God says go - some of us jump ship too soon and others of us have overstayed our welcome. Both lead to clumsy exits and shaky narratives as to the why and how it all went down.

There isn't a perfect exit strategy, it's inevitable that people will be sad, maybe even mad or hurt and that's okay, because not everyone will understand our assignment. Not everyone knows our wounds, triggers or last straws. Sometimes, we have to go and there's nowhere to go.

Sometimes we have to leave and we have no idea who will drive the getaway car. No matter the details, we can leave well, even if we are a little bit banged up.

Honor is a Kingdom currency.

Yep, even when it feels more expensive than our experience was worth.

Pay it. Lavish it. Pour it out and then keep giving it where you can.

How we end one season is often how we will start another.

How we leave one House is often how we will enter a new House.

Clean hands.

Pure heart.

Soft soul.

Fertile soil.

We can go well.

We can leave well.

Let's rewrite the script.