

Dealing with Defilement from times of Contention (Wes) – Session 5

Dealing with Defilement of Contention

1. Jezebelic usurping authority can happen in any group and organisation

- Must remember that God is more powerful than any Jezebelic power
- We are translated into the Kingdom of God but may still have entanglements with Jezebel

2. Leadership: Inevitably encounter contention

- Church is the frontline of warfare against darkness. There is conflict and warfare
- There is an active warfare going on...casualties are inevitable
- Want to minimise casualties and heal those who are wounded
- We deal with own brokenness and also the brokenness of others
- We learn on the job as we experience pressures that expose issues to the surface

3. Wes first two years of Leadership a time of Challenge of his calling

- Do you believe you are really called of God
- Must know your call and be able to stand it
- I Paul and apostle called by God
- Many times Paul had to show his credentials to prove his apostleship because of contention
- 3 x times Paul shares his testimony of the call of God...in increasing detail
- As we progress with God we increase in understanding of our calling
- *Eph 1:17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,*
Eph 1:18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,
Eph 1:19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

4. Pressure can cause people to falter and remove self from the Call of God

- Great pressure can come upon people because of spiritual attack
- People often are overcome by the warfare they experience in their journey and calling
- Must learn about self and the calling of God
- *Act 26:15 So I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.*
- *Act 26:16 But rise and stand on your feet; for I **have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you.***
- *Act 26:17 I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you,*

- Act 26:18 to **open their eyes**, in order to **turn them from darkness to light**, and **from the power of Satan to God**, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'
- Act 26:19 "Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,
- Paul has a revelation of the purpose of his calling
- Luk 4:18 "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE HAS ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR; HE HAS SENT ME TO HEAL THE BROKENHEARTED, TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET AT LIBERTY THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED;
- These two passages define our ministry calling
- Pressure and opposition comes against us because of our calling
- Must be sure in what we believe and why we believe
- Must be able to stand together with others

5. Keys to Walking through Contention

- Luk 11:18 If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? Because you say I cast out demons by **Beelzebub**.
Luk 11:19 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges.
Luk 11:20 But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.
 - Beelzebub....Dung god, Lord of demons, Lord of flies...Philistine god worshipped in Ekron
 - Flies defile whatever they're touch
 - When contention is not resolved well there is a contamination

Characteristics of Church Splits:

1. Failure to resolve contentions:

- Church splits sometimes happen and can be worked out
- Many times there are contentions, grief and arguments and damage
- The damage is deep and lasts a lifetime
- People reap what they have sown. If we sow division we will certainly reap division
- Wes and this church sown out with honour and commissioned

2. Accusations

- When these are not handled well they result in leaders and people being people
- Some churches abuse leaders....some abuse people
- There is always a biblical solution to resolving conflict

3. Discontented members not having ways to resolve grievances

4. Leadership Coups

- Eg Absalom...reacted at Fathers failure to resolve Ammon's assault
- Betrayal emerges from an unresolved offense to avenge it
- Coups can cause the offender to end in death

We Should Pursue Peace over Competition

- *Heb 12:14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:*
- *Heb 12:15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;*
- *Heb 12:16 lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright*
- Check other versions!
- **Defiled**....damage the purity of something, damage the innocence, introduce contentions they are not prepared to handle
- *Heb 12:15 Exercise foresight and be on the watch to look [after one another], to see that no one falls back from and fails to secure God's grace (His unmerited favor and spiritual blessing), in order that no root of resentment (rancor, bitterness, or hatred) shoots forth and causes trouble and bitter torment, and the many become contaminated and defiled by it—*

Wisdom is needed in Addressing issues

- *Jas 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.*
- *Jas 3:14 But if you have **bitter envy and selfseeking in your hearts**, do not boast and lie against the truth.*
- *Jas 3:15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.*
- *Jas 3:16 For **where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.***

Symptoms of Defilement in Contention

- **Must manage response and tongue during times of stress**
- *Jas 3:6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.*
- **1Pet.3:10-2**
- **Prov.18:20-21**
- **Prov.15:4**
- **Prov.25:3**
- **Mark11:22**
- **Don't let mouth run away when you are stirred emotionally**
- **Tempting to get into judgment and criticism is a main issue**

Symptoms of Jezebelic Defilement

1. Cloudy thinking ...confusion, and inability to think clearly
2. Strong self doubt
3. Feelings of wanting to flee
4. Sense of impending doom and failure...false destiny
5. Feelings of suicide
6. Other people's voices seem to be judging and talking against you.
Hearing voices Comparing

7. Manifestations of sickness or fear of death
8. Agreement with judgments against your soul

Overcoming Demonic Defilement

- Example of Elijah 1King 18: Hid in the cave

Key Steps

1. Recognise the issues involved in the contention
2. Responsibility for your part in the contention Confess, receive forgiveness and move on
3. Forgive the people who caused it
4. Reaffirm your identity in strong prayer
5. Break any agreement made with judgments you have heard
6. Command every spirit of Jezebel and other spirits to depart
Maybe receive prayer from strong ministry
7. Seek reconciliation where it is possible
May not be possible to have a connection as close as before