

Kauth.4 Recognising the Spirit of Rebellion

What is Rebellion?

Definition:

- . *Rebellion ...open resistance or opposition towards an authority or government, control or tradition, a conflict in which one party seeks to take control from another*
- . *Rebellion is the rejection of authority*

Active Rebellion

- . This is an open visible resistance to an authority
- . It can take the form of vocal and physical resistance, and gathering people into agreement against an authority to resist and replace it

Passive Rebellion

- . This is non cooperation with an authority
- . It can take the form of arriving late, going slow, withholding cooperation, reluctant cooperation, refusal to follow instructions, doing things 'my way', resisting accountability
- . Passive rebellion can be more difficult to identify because it is hidden resistance that can be felt

Rebellion is a Form of Witchcraft

- . *1Sa 15:23 For rebellion is **as** the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is **as** iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king."*
- . *"Witchcraft" Hb....qesem....divination ...*
- . *"Stubbornness"....Hb...patsar....to press, push, presume, be insubordinate*
- . *"For rebellion is the same as the sin of divination and presumption is the same as the sin of lawlessness and idolatry" (1Sam.15:23)*
- . *Saul's two sins were rebellion and presumption*

Divination or witchcraft directly opens the door to the demonic realm

- . By rebelling against the laws and order of God or His delegated authority we give legal access for spirits from the demonic realm

Rebellion brings in the activity of an evil spirit, whose will is in complete opposition to God just as divination would.

- . *It is willfully engaging the will of another spirit and choosing to do the will and work of God's enemy in opposition to God*
- . *It cost King Saul everything when he rebelled against the one who appointed and delegated his role to him*

NB: Witchcraft and Rebellion must be ruled over, not negotiated with, as they are empowered by Ruling demons whose goal is to rule and control

What is Not Rebellion

Refusing an unlawful requirement

. The Apostles:

Act 4:18** So they called them and **commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

***Act 4:19** But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.*

***Act 4:20** For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."*

- The command the delegated authorities gave was not to preach Jesus
- The Command Jesus gave them was to preach
- They maintained honour for the delegated authority
- They refused to obey their unlawful command
- They chose to obey God over an unlawful command
- They gladly accepted the consequences of beatings and imprisonment as suffering for Jesus(Acts.5:41)

. The Israel Midwives. (Exod.1:15-21)

. Daniels Friends. (Dan.3:8:30)

Leaving an Organisation/Workplace/Church/ Leadership/Unsafe relationship

. Examples

- Jesus directive regarding persecution (Matt.10:23)
- Israels departure from Rehoboam. (1kg.12:3-15)
- David's departure from King Saul. (1 Sam.19:12)
- Jonathan's disobedience to King Saul. (1 Sam.20:30)
- . Frequently the decision to leave or separate from a controlling, or abusive or unsafe relationships, results in a hostile reaction which can leave lasting damage
- . The reaction may include:
 - Violence
 - Isolation
 - Threats
 - Public criticism and shaming

What are the Roots of Rebellion?

Rebellion is a Fruit which has hidden roots

- Roots....The unseen part of a plant from through which it draws its life
- . "Rebellion".....Gk. Meriy....from a root word...marahbitterness
- . Rebellion is empowered by bitterness in the heart

Example: Lucifer

- ***Ezk 28:15** You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.*
- . Ezekiel and Isaiah both reveal that the origins of rebellion were in the archangel Lucifer
- . Iniquity, or lawlessness or rebellion entered Lucifer's heart and corrupted him (Ezekiel.28:17)
- ***Isa 14:12** "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!*
- Isa 14:13** For you have **said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will***

exalt my throne above the stars of God; **I will also sit** on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;

Isa 14:14 **I will ascend above** the heights of the clouds, **I will be like the Most High.**'

- . Instead of gratitude for the position of honour he had been delegated, Lucifer rebelled against the authority of God and drew many angels with him
- . Lucifer had envy and unrestrained selfish ambition in his heart. It caused him to rebel
- . Rebellion is an evil spirit whose influence is contagious. It draws people to rebel against authority
- . **Rebellion always exalts and promotes self, and it seeks to draw others into agreement**

Example: Simon the Sorcerer

- . Act 8:23 *For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity."*
- . Simon sought power through sorcery, so he could be recognised and control people (Acts.8:9-11)
- . Simon sought power through sorcery, an act of rebellion against God
- . After he believed and was baptized he saw that power was imparted through laying on of hands by the apostles
- . He tried to buy this power and was rebuked by the apostles: "*Give me this power*"(Acts.8:19)
- . The root was deep bitterness and iniquity or lawlessness (rebellion) in his heart

The Hidden Roots of Rebellion?

- . Pride
- . Rejection
- . Bitterness
- . Envy and Selfish ambition
- . Insecurity...fear
- . Abuse or neglect by authority figures
- . Injustice
- . Unyielded will (hardened heart)
- . Generational rebellion

Some OT Examples of Rebellion

Ham. (Gen.9:20-27)

- . Gen 9:21 *Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent.*
- . Gen 9:22 *And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside.*
- . Gen 9:23 *But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness.*
- . Noah became drunk on wine and became naked and exposed in his tent
- . Ham, saw his Father's nakedness and talked about it with his brothers
- . Familiarity and closeness to delegated authority can result in us seeing their humanity and their weaknesses or failures
- . **Exposing and gossiping about the weaknesses of delegated authorities constitutes rebellion**
- . Ham dishonoured his father and uncovered the failure of God's delegated authority
- . This rebellion resulted in all the descendants of Ham being cursed

Rebellion against delegated authority results in destruction

Nadal and Abihu.(Lev.10:1-2)

Lev 10:1 Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had **not commanded them**.

Lev 10:2 So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.

- . God had given commandments to Moses regarding how the offerings on the altar should be done
- . When offerings were made according to God's order, the glory of God appeared and fire came from heaven on the offerings
- . Aaron's sons rejected and rebelled against the commandment of God given through Moses regarding the altar and offering and offered strange fire
- . **Rejecting lawful instructions** given through a delegated authority constitutes rebellion
- . What God has ordered he endorses and defends. Fire came out from God and killed them

Rebellion against delegated authority results in destruction

Miriam and Aaron (Num.12:1-15)

Num 12:1 Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman.

- . Miriam and Aaron were Moses older sister and brother
- . Miriam spoke against Moses because Moses had married an Ethiopian woman
- . Their familiarity with Moses as their younger brother caused them to ignore his standing before The Lord, and his unique calling by The Lord
- . Their **familiarity lead to criticism** which constituted **rebellion against The Lord** and His choice

Num 12:7 Not so with My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My house.

Num 12:8 I speak with him face to face, Even plainly, and not in dark sayings; And he sees the form of the LORD. Why then **were you not afraid To speak against My servant Moses?**"

Num 12:9 So the anger of the LORD was aroused against them, and He departed

- . The Lord stood behind and affirmed his delegated leadership Moses, and brought judgment upon Miriam. She contracted leprosy in her forehead (Num.12:100)

Rebellion against delegated authority results in destruction

Korah , Dothan and Abiram (Num.16:1-35)

Num 16:2 and they **rose up** before Moses with some of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation, representatives of the congregation, men of renown.

Num 16:3 They **gathered together against** Moses and Aaron, and said to them, "You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?"

- . This situation is known as the **rebellion of Korah**

- . Korah and other leaders gathered up 250 leaders and formed an insurrection or organised opposition against Moses leadership
- . **Complaining and contention are indications of rebellion in the heart**
- . The core of this was ingratitude, and selfish ambition
- . They **desired equality** with Moses and Aaron and were **ambitious** to have a priesthood role (Num.16:3)
- . They claimed equality and accused Moses and Aaron self promotion
- . They did not recognise the unique calling of God and rebelled against His appointment of Moses and Aaron in leadership (Num.17:10)
- . God stood behind His delegated leadership and opened the earth to swallow the rebels
- . **Rebellion against delegated authority results in destruction**

Israel (Exod.17:1-7)

- . Num 16:41 *But on the next day all the congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and against Aaron, saying, "You have killed the people of the LORD."*
- . **Rebellion is Contagious**
- . After God had judged and put to death Korah and all his followers. Israel rose up against Moses
- . Their **false accusation against Moses constituted rebellion** against God and His Judicial decision
- . This unleashed a plague and judgment of God against them until Moses and Aaron interceded
- . **Rebellion against delegated authority results in destruction**

- . Psa 95:8 *"Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, As in the day of trial in the wilderness,*
- . This situation is known as the **rebellion of Israel**
- . Israel complained against Moses and questioned God's care for them
- . Their **refusal to trust God and their complaining** against His delegated leadership constituted rebellion against God Himself
- . Israel were subsequently refused access to the Promised Land
- . **Rebellion against delegated authority results in destruction**

The Stages of Rebellion

Example of Absalom (2 Sam.15:1-30)

- . 2Sa 15:2 *Now Absalom would rise early and stand beside the way to the gate. So it was, whenever anyone who had a lawsuit came to the king for a decision, that Absalom would call to him and say, "What city are you from?" And he would say, "Your servant is from such and such a tribe of Israel."*
- . 2Sa 15:3 *Then Absalom would say to him, "Look, your case is good and right; but there is no deputy of the king to hear you."*
- . 2Sa 15:4 *Moreover Absalom would say, "Oh, that I were made judge in the land, and everyone who has any suit or cause would come to me; then I would give him justice."*

The stages of Absalom's rebellion

- . Offended in his heart against his father David
- . Critical of David's failure

- . Independence
- . Self promotion
- . Desire for recognition and promotion
- . Attracted to and recognizes discontented people carrying injustice...agreed with them
- . Undermined the reputation of the King
- . Justified and promoted his own position
- . Emphasized minor issues and fostered division
- . Drew a following after himself
- . Launched his own Ministry

The Consequences of Rebellion

Spiritual Dryness and Barrenness

Psa 68:6 God sets the solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; But the rebellious dwell in a dry land.

- . When people hold rebellion in their heart they remain spiritually dry and cannot prosper.
- . There is always a barrenness around their life and activities
- . They struggle with forming close relationships, in finances, marriage, church
- . Is any are of your life dry or barren? Is there any rebellion to address?

Demonic Oppression

Pro 17:11 An evil man seeks only rebellion; Therefore a cruel messenger will be sent against him.

- . A cruel messenger refers to demonic spirits
- . "Cruel"...Hb. Akzar.....causing pain and suffering without any pity
- . The presence of rebellion in the heart is an open door for demonic oppression
- . People struggle with sickness, or depression, and emotional turmoil
- . Eg. King Saul 1Sam.16: 14, 23

Death and Destruction

2Sa 18:14 Then Joab said, "I cannot linger with you." And he took three spears in his hand and thrust them through Absalom's heart, while he was still alive in the midst of the terebinth tree.

2Sa 18:15 And ten young men who bore Joab's armor surrounded Absalom, and struck and killed him

- . Absalom died because of his rebellion
- . Those who followed Absalom, even in their ignorance also died in his rebellion
- . People who are rebellious are never happy or fulfilled no matter what they do

Spiritual Blindness

*Ezk 12:2 "Son of man, you dwell in the midst of a rebellious house, which has eyes to see but does not see, and ears to hear but does not hear; **for** they are a rebellious house.*

- . Rebellion results in spiritual blindness
- . We are unable to see or discern clearly the real source of problems
- . Spiritual blindness is a condition of the heart...the heart is dull, or calloused and insensitive spiritually (Mat.13:15)
- . People cannot receive or respond to things God speaks

David's Refusal to Rebel

Twice David was given the opportunity to rebel against Delegated Authority but refused.

- . He refused to attack King Saul in spite of being abused by him
- . He refused to promote himself
- . He trusted that if God had chosen him, then God would promote him

Example 1: The Cave (1Sam.24:1-22)

1Sa 24:4 Then the men of David said to him, "This is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand, that you may do to him as it seems good to you.' " And David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul's robe. 1Sa 24:5 Now it happened afterward that David's heart troubled him because he had cut Saul's robe.

1Sa 24:6 And he said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD."

1Sa 24:7 So David restrained his servants with these words, and did not allow them to rise against Saul. And Saul got up from the cave and went on his way.

- . David's men called King Saul his enemy tried to persuade him to take matters into his own hands and kill him
- . David refused to arise against King Saul, and restrained his servants from doing so either
- . He resisted rebellion and resisted others encouraging him to do so using religious language

Example 2: The Field (1Sam.26:3-26)

1Sa 26:8 Then Abishai said to David, "God has delivered your enemy into your hand this day. Now therefore, please, let me strike him at once with the spear, right to the earth; and I will not have to strike him a second time!"

1Sa 26:9 But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD's anointed, and be guiltless?"

1Sa 26:10 David said furthermore, "As the LORD lives, the LORD shall strike him, or his day shall come to die, or he shall go out to battle and perish.

- . David's men once again tried to persuade him to take matters into his own hands and kill King Saul
- . David resisted rebellion and resisted others encouraging him to do so using religious language
- . David's respect for God and fear of God caused him to respect and honour God's anointed representative in spite of King Saul's abuse of him and intentions to kill him

David's Response revealed

- . His humility,
- . His respect for God and His authority
- . His recognition of and respect for God's delegated authority, in spite of his sin
- . His trust that if God had chosen him God would protect him and promote him

Overcoming Rebellion

Resolve the Damage of Historic Abuse by an Authority Figure

Ask Holy Spirit to Reveal Historic abuse by an authority figure

- . You may have not recognised it, or denied it or minimised it
- . You will have ongoing tension and reactions around anyone in authority who triggers memories of what you have previously experiences

Ask Holy Spirit to help you acknowledge and resolve the abuse

- . What happened to you?
- . Who was responsible for the abuse?
- . How has it impacted you?
- . What personal help do you need to bring this to closure?

Resolving abuse by an Authority figure involve both a decision, and a process

It typically may include:

- . Recognition of what has happened
- . Acknowledging the pain, grief, shame and impact upon your life and relationships
(Journalling can greatly help this process)
- . Resolving the grief
- . Releasing forgiveness from the heart
- . Renouncing bitter judgments and inner vows
- . Receiving ministry of deliverance
- . Receiving ministry or assistance healing trauma

Resolve Historic Reactions or Rebellion against Authority

Ask Holy Spirit to reveal passive or active rebellion against an authority figure

- . Who was that delegated authority figure?
 - . Your Father
 - . Your Mother?
- . Note: Unresolved Bitterness, Reactions towards and dishonour of your Father or Mother will surface in all relationships with authority figures through our life and cause problems through life)
 - . Your Spouse?
 - . A Teacher
 - . The Police
 - . A Government Official
 - . A Church Pastor or Leader?

Ask Holy Spirit to Help you do whatever is need to acknowledge and put these matters right

- . What is the issue?
- . How has it affected people?
- . What do you need to do to address and resolve this?

Resolve Historic Personal Abuse or Misuse of Authority Position Held

Ask Holy Spirit to reveal If you have abused people entrusted under your care

- . Have you been controlling ?
- . Have you been unjust or harsh in dealing with people?
- . Have you been verbally abusive?
- . Have you been physically abusive?
- . Have you been financially abusive
- . Have you been sexually abusive ?

Ask Holy Spirit to reveal if you have misused a position of authority entrusted to your care

- . Have you failed to protect people?
- . Have you failed to encourage and cultivate people?
- . Have you used your position to your own advantage personally or financially?
- . Have you refused to give people a hearing and listen to them?
- . Have you refused to acknowledge and address peoples genuine needs?

Ask Holy Spirit to Help you do whatever is need to acknowledge and put these matters right

- . What is the issue?
- . How has it affected people?
- . What do you need to do to address and resolve this?

Begin to Honour Position Self rightly with Authority (Next Session)