

Professional Competency

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I. Introduction.

A. The impact of your ministry moves from the center to the circumference.

B. Your ministry is in direct proportion to the quality of the management to your own home, your relationship as a couple, the quality of your life as a person, and the quality of your relationship to Jesus Christ.

1. Make full proof of your ministry. (2 Timothy 4:5)

2. The life of no regrets. (2 Timothy 2:15)

a. A Lord well pleased: be diligent.

b. The work well done: an unashamed workman.

c. The Word well used: handling it accurately.

1) God's work is always carried out through God's word.

2) The only thing that God has really promised to bless is his word.

II. The power of negative thinking.

A. Also known as, how Satan will get you, or why I will quit the ministry.

B. The Devil's interest in us. (2 Corinthians 2:11)

1. Background: the man of sin.

a. Paul indicts the church for not acting against the man of sin.

b. Paul indicts the man of sin causing the Gentiles to blaspheme.

c. Apparently something was done about this man after the man.

d. As a result of reconciling, the church had another problem.

1) The church refuses to forgive the brother.

2. Paul is now appealing to the church that they would bring the man back in order that no advantage would be taken by Satan.

a. The Devil is a specialist on you - the reason he defeats you more than you defeat him is that he knows you better than you know him.

C. The Devil's ten favorite roots for wiping you out.

1. Materialism.

- a. It is not about how much you have, but what you give.
- b. You will be raped by the Christian community that has not learned that it is more blessed to give than receive.
- c. You have to be committed to being primarily working for Jesus Christ.
- d. Demas bails on Paul.

2. Discouragement.

- a. Because of circumstances.
 - 1) Habakkuk cries out.
- b. When you get your eyes on people.
 - 1) John 21: Peter becomes concerned with John.
 - 2) God will never ask you to give an account for another - just you.
- c. When you look at yourself.
 - 3) Romans 12 - we need a balanced viewpoint

3. Bitterness.

- a. Ephesians 4:31 advises an attitudinal housecleaning.
- b. The number one problem among ministers is hostility.
- c. It is about how people react to you.
- e. Hebrews 12:13-15.
 - 1) Bitterness is a highly contagious disease.
 - 2) Example of a man who wiped out 32 ministries as a result of his bitterness.

4. An ego trip.

- a. Success is difficult to manage.
- b. Rejoice in the fact that your disciples may be more successful than you are.

5. He will push you over the cliff by your morals.

a. David was home looking over the balcony when he should have been looking after the battle; David was in the wrong place, and so was Bathsheba.

b. Males have a real problem with lust. David was a man of passion who wasn't a sissy - a warrior, a poet.

c. A consistent sex life in marriage is key to stability in the home.

6. Doctrinal defection.

a. Galatians 2:11 - Paul's resistance of Peter for refusing to eat with the Gentiles. Duplicity was at play.

b. You must commit yourselves to the full authority of the Scriptures.

c. Reason always bows before revelation - Martin Luther.

d. Don't get caught with your doctrines down.

7. Lost perspective.

a. Malachi 1:13 - the priests are griping about the weariness of making sacrifices.

b. Ministry in the flesh is highly frustrating - John 21.

1) The fishermen were shown to be incompetent in the area of their greatest competence.

c. The Scriptures teach that pleasure and work are both good when kept in proper balance.

8. Jealousy.

a. Diotrephes loved promotion - 3 John 9-10.

9. Submission.

a. The characteristic of our day is resistance to authority.

b. Personal example of military father who taught authority.

c. You will never become a good leader until you know how to become a good follower.

10. Pride.

a. Probably the root of all.

b. Mark 13 - Peter had a problem of ignorance; he was stepping on a spiritual banana peel telling the Lord that he could count on him.

c. Apart from Jesus we can do nothing.

III. The power of positive modeling.

A. A survey of discipleship in Luke.

1. Study books of the Bible as a unit.

1. Popularity Segment. (Luke 1:1-5:16)

2. The opposition segment. (Luke 5:17-6:11)

1. The devil enters.

2. It begins and ends with a ministry to a man.

a. Satan will not attack your program.

b. The moment your ministry becomes a means to minister to people you can count on the presence of the enemy.

3. Climax. (Luke 6:11)

1. They were filled with rage, and they discussed what they might do to Jesus.

4. The choosing of the Twelve. (Luke 6:12-19)

1. The most critical part of Luke.

2. Begins with "in those days"

a. A crucial paragraph from the standpoint of discipleship.

b. The change from the ministry to the many to a ministry of the few.

c. You must come to grips with the reality that you are on your way out. You are on your way from the land of the dying to the land of the living.

5. Our Lord's primer. (the remainder of Luke)

1. Four basics.

a. Develop an eternal perspective.

1) Be more concerned with responsibility than reputation.

2) Psalm 90 - teach us to number our days in order that we may acquire the skill of living (wisdom).

3) Personal example of friend who purchased a reverse calendar.

b. Model the savior not the Christian community.

1) Watch the danger of a double standard.

2) Example of a student who was the first to have a professor pray with him in six years.

3) We should have a lifestyle that models the savior all the time.

a) If you ask someone to do something, are you doing it?

c. Be a servant.

1) It is a hard time developing this; nobody wants to take the place of the menial servant.

2) Jesus washed our feet - the very Lord of the universe.

3) Example of a Bible conference director who was embittered towards a speaker who prayed to be relieved of the bitterness and then acted on it.

4) We all have the same disease; we love spiritual things, but we don't love to live the lifestyle.

d. Cultivate your faith.

1) The only thing that Jesus ever rebuked his disciples for was having a lack of faith.

2) We don't learn faith by a series of lectures; we learn from living.

3) What are you believing God for that only God can do? What are you as an individual trusting God for that only God can accomplish?

2. Powerful discipleship begins with these four characteristics; these take root through modeling.

Application Questions

1. Which root that the Devil uses to wipe people out do you see most evident in your life? Explain.

2. Why according to the speaker is discipleship so important?

3. The speaker began by mentioning disciplines of the spiritual life such as prayer, time with the Lord, etc before going into the basics of the Lord's primer. How do the spiritual disciplines relate to the four basics of discipleship?

4. Which basic do you find most difficult to implement in your life? How can you go about cultivating each of the basics for the sake of modeling in your own life? Be specific.
