

TESTS WE MUST PASS TO BE A FRUITFUL DISCIPLE

2/4/2024 11:26 pm

Today we will talk about **THE 3 TESTS WE MUST PASS TO BE A FRUITFUL DISCIPLE.**

"The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word."

The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced.

And the seed that fell on good soil represents those who hear and accept God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"
Mark 4:16-20 NLT

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE A FARMER THAT WENT OUT TO PLANT SOME SEEDS.

- WHAT THIS CHAPTER IS LITERALLY SAYING IS THAT.....
- EVERYDAY, EVERY MOMENT, EVERY TIME GOD IS TRYING TO PLANT SOME SEEDS
- EVERYTIME YOU PRAY.
- EVERYTIME YOU COME TO CHURCH.
- EVERYTIME YOU COME TO LOF.
- WHENEVER GOD SPEAKS TO YOU (LIKE IN THIS MOMENT)
- GOD IS PLANTING A SEED.

'THIS SEED'

- THIS SEED REPRESENTS **THE WORD OF GOD.**
- THIS SEED MAY LOOK SMALL/WEAK/TRIVIAL/INSIGNIFICANT.
- BUT ONE MUST BEG TO ASK THIS QUESTION....
- BUT IF IT'S SO SMALL,
 - WHY DOES THE ENEMY WANTS TO STEAL IT OUT OF YOU???
 - THEY DISTRACT YOU WITH ANYTHING....
 - **BODY ALL OF THE SUDDEN FEELING TIRED.**
 - **BOSS ALL OF THE SUDDEN GAVE EXTRA HOURS.**
 - **ALL OF THE SUDDEN YOU BECOME ANXIOUS, DISTRACTED, DOUBTFUL & FEARFUL.**
- IF IT'S SO TRIVIAL, OR UNIMPORTANT,
 - WHY DOES THE ENEMY WANTS TO CHOKE IT OUT OF YOU??
 - WITH WORRIES OF LIFE.
 - GOD WANTS TO SPEAK TO YOU BUT WE GOT LURED WITH WEALTH.
 - **I GOT TO WORK, I GOT TO TO GET MORE MONEY, I GOTTA, I GOTTA, I GOTTA WORK EXTRA JOB...**
 - **I GOTTA GET MORE.....WELL, HOW MUCH MORE....I DON'T KNOW...JUST MORE.....**
- IF IT'S SO INSIGNIFICANT,
 - WHY DOES YOUR ENEMY WANT TO DO EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER TO KILL IT BEFORE IT PRODUCES FRUIT IN YOUR LIFE???

BECAUSE YOU MAY NOT KNOW IT....BUT 'IN THIS SEED'

- YOU'VE BEEN WORKING YOUR BUTT OF FOR YOUR BREAKTHROUGHS IN YOUR CAREER,
- BUT LITTLE THAT YOU KNOW IT...IN THIS SEED, IT CARRIES THE VERY BREAKTHROUGH YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR.
- IN THIS SEED, IT CARRIES THE HEALING YOU'VE BEEN PRAYING FOR.
- IT CARRIES THE LIFE OF TRUE ABUNDANCE THAT YOU'VE BEEN DREAMING OF.
- YOU'VE BEEN SEARCHING, FIGHTING, WORKING YOUR LIFE OFF FOR, **IT'S ACTUALLY CONTAINED IN THIS VERY SEED.**
- SEEEEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND ITS RIGHTEOUSNESS AND EVERYTHING WILL BE ADDED UNTO YOU.
- THAT'S WHY CHURCH, LEADERS, DISCIPLED, LISTEN TO THE WORD, CONSUME THE WORD, LIVE ON THE WORD.
- DON'T LET THE WORLD DISTRACT YOU FROM IT.
- DON'T LET THE ENEMY STEAL IT.

- AND ONCE THE SEED PRODUCES ITS FRUIT, **THERE IS NO POWER IN HELL THAT CAN STOP IT FROM BRINGING VICTORY IN YOUR LIFE!!!!**

NOW TODAY WE'RE GOING TO LEARN THE 3 TESTS YOU MUST PASS FOR YOU TO BE FRUITFUL IN YOUR LIFE.

- **TOUCH 5 PEOPLE SITTING NEXT TO YOU....**
- **ARE YOU READY TO PASS YOUR TESTS???**

TEST #1 - PROBLEMS/TRIBULATION TEST.

- **"The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems."**

- THE FIRST TEST THE ENEMY TEST YOU WITH IS CALLED **PROBLEM / TRIBULATION TEST.**

- WHEN YOU'VE RECEIVED THE SEED/THE WORD/THE PROMISE, THE ENEMY WILL SEND YOU....TRIBULATION.

- BUT SOME OF US HAVE A "WHY ME?" SPIRIT
- AT THE FIRST SIGHT OF TRIBULATION.
- AT THE FIRST SIGHT OF PROBLEM.
- AT THE FIRST SIGHT OF PRESSURE.
- WE SAY.....'**WHY MEEEEE?'**

HEBREWS 10:35-39 (NKJV)

THEREFORE DO NOT CAST AWAY YOUR CONFIDENCE, WHICH HAS GREAT REWARD.

FOR YOU HAVE NEED OF ENDURANCE, SO THAT AFTER YOU HAVE DONE THE WILL OF GOD, YOU MAY RECEIVE THE PROMISE:

"FOR YET A LITTLE WHILE, AND HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME AND WILL NOT TARRY, AND THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; BUT IF ANYONE DRAWS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM."

BUT WE ARE NOT OF THOSE WHO DRAW BACK TO PERDITION, BUT OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE TO THE SAVING OF THE SOUL

- BUT WE ARE NOT OF THOSE WHO DRAW BACK!
- I REMEMBERED THE STORY OF ONE OF OUR DISCIPLES.
 - **THEY SAID "PASTOR, THE MORE I WANT TO GET CLOSER TO GOD AND HIS PEOPLE, WHY ALL OF THE SUDDEN IT FEELS LIKE THE RUG GOT PULLED FROM UNDERNEATH US!!!!"**
 - **WHEN WE WANTED TO MAKE A DECISION TO GO CLOSER TO GOD.....**
 - **IT'S LIKE...WE TOOK ONE STEP FORWARD, BUT GOT PULLED TWO, THREE STEPS BACKWARDS AGAIN!!**
 - **I'VE GOT PROBLEM WITH MY JOB, I LOST MY LICENSE, I ALMOST LOST MY FAMILY IN DIVORCE, WHAT IS GOING ON??!?!?!**

- THAT MY FRIEND IS THE ENEMY SENDING US TRIBULATIONS.
- THEY WANT YOU TO QUIT!
- HEY WILL INTIMIDATE YOU TO BACK OFF FROM DISCIPLE MAKING, SOUL SAVING, FROM FULFILLING HIS GREAT COMMISSION.

- BUT LET ME TELL YOU CHURCH, YOU ARE NOT OF THOSE WHO DRAW BACK!

- CHURCH, LET ME TELL YOU THIS.
 - **IF 'QUIT' IS STILL WITHIN YOU, YOU NEED TO GET IT OUT OF YOU.**
 - **WHY? BECAUSE THE WORD SAY THERE IS GREAT REWARD BEHIND THIS TRIBULATION.**
 - **THEREFORE DO NOT CAST AWAY YOUR CONFIDENCE, WHICH HAS GREAT REWARD.**

FOR YOU HAVE NEED OF ENDURANCE, SO THAT AFTER YOU HAVE DONE THE WILL OF GOD, YOU MAY RECEIVE THE PROMISE.

SOMEBODY SHOUT 'I'LL RECEIVE IT!'

- YOU KNOW AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS CHURCH....
 - GOD GAVE US A REVELATION THAT IT IS GOD'S MANDATE & WILL FOR US TO SAVE SOULS AND MAKE DISCIPLES.
 - THE ENEMY WANTS TO STEAL THAT WORD.
 - THEY SENT US TROUBLE, THEY SENT US PRESSURES, OUT OF THE BLUE DAKOTA GOT A SEIZURES NOT ONCE, BUT TWICE!
 - THIS HAPPENED JUST BEFORE WE STARTED THE BIGGEST EVER LOF INTAKE.
 - THEY DID THAT SO EVENTUALLY WE'LL QUIT!
 - BUT WE KNOW THAT IF THEY CAN TAKE THE WORD, THEY CAN TAKE OUR VICTORY.
 - SO STRAIGHT AFTER ER, WE DIDN'T DRAW BACK! WE DIDN'T GIVE UP!
 - WHY? BECAUSE GREAT REWARD IS WAITING BEHIND EVERY TRIBULATION!

- BUT SOME OF US.... WE STILL HAVE THAT "QUIT" WITHIN US.

- IN YOUR FAMILY, PARENTS SHOULD BREAK THIS 'QUIT SPIRIT'
 - IT WILL BE PASSED DOWN.
 - THAT WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH, WE QUIT ON EACH OTHER.
 - THAT WHEN TRIBULATION COMES, WE QUIT ON MINISTRY, ON DISCIPLESHIP.
 - PARENTS, WE'VE GOT TO BREAK OFF THE QUIT SPIRIT FROM OUR FAMILY.
 - THAT FROM MY GENERATION ONWARDS THERE IS NO QUITTING ON ONE ANOTHER.
 - THERE IS NO QUITTING ON THE VISION OF GOD TO SAVE SOULS AND MAKE DISCIPLES.

- NOT THIS YEAR, NOT THE MOVEMENT CHURCH....
- WE ARE NOT THOSE DO QUIT.
- CMON SAY IT **"IM NOT A QUITTER!, THERE'S NO QUIT IN ME".**

- WHEN THE ENEMY KNOWS YOU WON'T BUCKLE, HE'LL LEAVE.
 - YOU GOTTA DRAW A LINE IN YOUR HEART.
 - AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE.... WE WILL....NOT QUIT.

- DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME OVER HERE DEVIL.
- ITS NOT GONNA WORK....
- AND WATCH THE TRIBULATION WILL LEAVE.
- PASS THE TEST OF INTIMIDATION.

- **GAL 6:7-9 DO NOT BE DECEIVED; GOD CAN NOT BE MOCKED. A MAN REAPS WHAT HE SOWS. LET US NOT BECOME WEARY IN DOING GOOD, FOR AT THE PROPER TIME WE WILL REAP A HARVEST IF WE DO NOT GIVE UP.**

TEST #2 - THE OFFENSE TEST

- THE SECOND TEST THAT THE ENEMY ALWAYS SEND TO EVERY DISCIPLES OVER AND OVER AGAIN IS....**THE OFFENSE TEST.**

- SO FIRST THEY SEND YOU TROUBLE/ TRIBULATIONS.
- IF THAT FAILS THEY WILL SEND YOU....OFFENSE.

- NOW HOW MANY LEADERS GOT TAKEN OUT BY THIS??

- EVERYTHING WENT REALLY WELL, THEIR FAMILY STARTED TO GET PLANTED IN THE WORD, IN THE CHURCH FAMILY.
- BUT ALL OF THE SUDDEN, THEY DISAPPEAR.
- WHY?
- BECAUSE THEY GOT OFFENDED BY THE OTHER MEMBERS.
- BECAUSE THEY GOT OFFENDED BY THEIR PASTOR.
- OH THEIR PASTOR FORGET TO GREET THEM "HAPPY BIRTHDAY."

- WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL OF THE OFFENSE TEST.
- IT IS VERY POTENT.
- IT'S POTENT BECAUSE ITS VERY DECEITFUL

- 1. **IT IS DRIVEN BY A DARKER FORCE**

- YOU THINK THAT OTHER MEMBER WHO HURT YOU IS THE ENEMY.
- YOU THINK THAT THAT COLLEAGUE WHO HURT YOU IS THE ENEMY.

- "OF COURSE ITS THEM PASTOR, THEY ARE THE ONE WHO SAID ALL THOSE MEAN STUFFS."
- "OOOH PASTOR I CAN STILL REMEMBER HER FACE WHEN SHE SAID THAT HURTFUL STUFF TO ME."

- BUT LITTLE THAT YOU KNOW, THEY ARE NEVER YOUR REAL ENEMY.
- THEY ARE JUST BEING USED TO HURT YOUR FEELING.
- BUT THE REAL ENEMY IS.

- **EPH 6:12 - FOR WE DO NOT WRESTLE AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST PRINCIPALITIES, AGAINST POWER, AGAINST THE RULERS OF DARKNESS OF THIS AGE, AGAINST SPIRITUAL HOSTS OF WICKEDNESS IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES.**

- 2. **THE GOAL IS MUCH BIGGER THAN JUST HURTING YOUR FEELINGS**

- YOU THINK THAT THEY ARE AFTER IS....YOUR FEELINGS.
- BUT LET ME TELL YOU.
- YOUR FEELING IS THE LAST THING THEY HAVE IN THEIR MIND.
- ITS NEVER YOUR EMOTION, ITS YOUR SALVATION.
- ITS NEVER YOUR FEELING, IT IS YOUR CALLING.

- **HEBREWS 12:14-18 (NKJV)**

14 PURSUE PEACE WITH ALL PEOPLE, AND HOLINESS, WITHOUT WHICH NO ONE WILL SEE THE LORD: 15 LOOKING CAREFULLY LEST ANYONE FALL SHORT OF THE GRACE OF GOD; LET ANY ROOT OF BITTERNESS SPRINGING UP CAUSE TROUBLE, AND BY THIS MANY BECOME DEFILED

- BROTHER RED, CAROLINE, HAVE GOT THE SAME STORIES.
- WHEN THEY GOT SAVED, THE ENEMY WANTED TO HURT THEM, HURT THEIR FAMILY.
- BUT THEY PRESSED ON.

- NOW EVERYBODY ARE CONTACTED THEM, HEY, WHICH CHURCH DO YOU GO TO? I WANT TO GO TO YOUR CHURCH WHY? BECAUSE I KNEW WHO YOU WERE BEFORE.
- YOU ARE THE LASSST PERSON ON EARTH WHO I WOULD'VE RECEIVED AN BIBLE ENCOURAGEMENT FROM? WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
- NOW YOUR BUSINESS IS PROSERING, YOUR FAMILY IS UNITED, YOU SEEMS TO BE HAPPOUR, OOOZING WITH JOY.
- I WANT WHAT YOU HAVE!

- DON'T LET THE TEST OF OFFENSE TRICKS YOU, GREAT REWARD IS WAITING!

TEST #3 - THE LURE OF WEALTH

- THE LURE OF WEALTH - ITS NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO DESTROY THE CALLING OF GOD IN YOUR LIFE, BUT ITS STRONG ENOUGH TO DISTRACT YOU FROM IT.
- I CALL IT "THE GREAT DISTRACTOR".

- **The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced.**

- THE SEED WANTS TO SPROUT.
- THE SEED WANTS TO PRODUCE FRUITS BUT!!!
- THE WORRIES OF LIFE, THE LURE OF WEALTH, THE DESIRE FOR MORE THINGS.
- IT CROWDED THE MESSAGE.

HANNY STORY

- I'VE SEEN MANY PEOPLE, MY OWN FAMILY, THEY HAVE WEALTH, THEY HAVE FAME, THEY HAVE MORE THAN MOST OTHERS BUT THEY SLEPT WITH CALCULATOR IN THEIR HANDS.
- HOW CAN THE WORD PRODUCES FRUITS???
- THE MIND IS SOOO CROWDED.
- I NEED TO GET THIS.
- I NEED TO BUY MORE THINGS.
- YOU SEE....IM NOT AGAINST YOU OWN NICE THINGS, IM JUST AGAINST THESE THINGS OWN YOU.

LEARN TO SIMPLIFY YOUR LIFE.

- "I CAN'T PRAY BECAUSE I NEED TO MAINTAIN MY NICE GARDENS.
- "I CAN'T GO TO DISCIPLESHIP BECAUSE I NEED TO TAKE MY KIDS FOR SPORTS.
- "I CAN'T COME COMMIT TO DISCIPLESHIP WHY BECAUSE I NEED TO GO TO THE GYM....
- WHAAAAAT? BUT PASTOR ITS MY PASSION.
- CAN'T I HAVE A PASSION???
- NOT IF IT TAKES THE PLACE OF YOUR GOD!?!?!?

- LOOK, PUT IT THIS WAY.
- IF YOU TRULY BELIEVE THAT HE HAS DIED FOR YOU.
- THAT HE HAS REDEEMED YOU.
- THAT EVERYTHING THAT YOU OWN COMES FROM HIM.
- WHY NOW THAT HE HAS GIVEN YOU WHAT YOU PRAYED FOR (THE BLESSING, THE HEALTH, THE CARE, THE CAREER) YOU FORGOT ABOUT HIM???

- USE GOD'S WISDOM TO SIMPLIFY YOUR LIFE, NOT COMPLICATE.
- **WHY? BECAUSE IF THE FOUNDATION IS NOT RIGHT, YOU'LL LOSE EVERYTHIGN GOD GIVES YOU.**

- **IN ORDER TO DO GOD'S VISION IN YOUR LIFE, YOU NEED TO SIMPLIFY YOUR LIFE.**
- ALWAYS ASK BEFORE COMMITTING SOMETHING, ASK YOURSELF "CAN I AFFORD THIS? (NOT JUST FINANCIALLY) BUT SPIRITUALLY AND EMOTIONALLY?"

- LETS GET PRACTICAL:
 - DO YOU HAVE THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE TO HAVE DEVOTION EVERY DAY?
 - WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU SIT DOWN ON THE FEET OF JESUS AND PRAY AND LISTEN TO WHAT HE'S GOT TO SAY THROUGH HIS WORD?
 - THAT IS PUTTING GOD FIRST IN YOUR LIFE.

- LETS GET PRACTICAL:
 - DO YOU HAVE THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE TO STAY IN THE PATH OF DISCIPLESHIP?
 - ARE YOU COMMITTED TO YOUR OWN SPIRITUAL GROWTH?
 - OR ARE YOU MORE COMMITTED IN OTHER THINGS THAN YOUR OWN SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

- LETS GET PRACTICAL:
 - DO YOU HAVE THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE IN YOUR FINANCE AND TITHE THE FIRST 10% OF YOUR INCOME?

- LETS GET PRACTICAL:
 - DO YOU HAVE THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE TO DO HIS MANDATE AND SAVE SOULS AND MAKE DISCIPLES
 - DO YOU HAVE THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE TO USE YOUR GIFTS AND SERVE OTHER BELIEVERS?

- IF THIS IS NOT HAPPENING, ITS TIME TO PUT GOD FIRST IN YOUR LIFE AGAIN.
 - BUT PASTOR CAN'T I BE PASSIONATE ABOUT MY CYBLING HOBBY, **YES BUT AFTER GOD.**
 - BUT PASTOR CAN'T I BE PASSIONATE ABOUT MY FAMILY/MY KIDS/MY NEW GIRLFRIEND, **YES BUT AFTER GOD..** (INVOLVE THEM IN MINISTRY, TEACH THEM TO OBEY GOD, SHOW THEM HOW TO BE ON FIRE FOR HIS MISSION)
 - BUT PASTOR CAN'T I BE PASSIONATE ABOUT MY CAREER, YES YOU CAN!IN FACT WE TEACH YOU TO BE THE BEST IN THE MARKETPLACE, YOU NEED TO STUDY, CHASE YOUR HIGHEST DREAM, CREATE YOUR BUSINESS, HELP PEOPLE, FULFILL THAT GOD'S GIVEN DREAM, BUT NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF GOD.
 - **INSTEAD OF EITHER/OR, YOU CAN DO BOTH!**
 - ANYONE WHO TELLS YOU YOU CAN'T BE EXCELLENT IN BOTH IS A BLANTANT LIE.
 - YOU CAN BE EXCELLENCE IN YOUR BUSINESS, YOUR PASSION, BUT ALSO ON FIRE, BLESSED, HONORING GOD AT THE SAME TIME.
 - I WAS RAISED FROM A FAMILY THAT CALLED FOR THE MINISTRY BUT CALLED IN THE MARKETPLACE TOO. YES IT CAN BE DONE.
 - **LOVING GOD, AND LOVING PEOPLE.**
 - **REVIVING AGENT, AND MARKETPLACE LEADER.**
 - **SOUL WINNER AND BUSINESS OWNER.**
 - **BLESSED AND GENEROUS.**

- USE GOD'S WISDOM TO SIMPLIFY YOUR LIFE, NOT COMPLICATE.
- USE GOD'S WISDOM TO ENLARGE YOUR CAPACITY TO HANDLE BOTH.
- IS IT EASY? No., BUT LET ME TELL YOU, THERE IS NO GREATER LIFE THAN
- SERVING GOD, AND KILLING IT IN THE MARKET PLACE.
- SERVING GOD AND ADORED BY YOUR CHILDREN.

- **1 COR 7:35 - AND THIS I SAY FOR YOUR OWN SPIRIT, NOT THAT I MAY PUT A LEASH ON YOU, BUT FOR WHAT IS PROPER, AND THAT YOU MAY SERVE THE LORD WITHOUT DISTRACTION.**

- **Mk. 4:20 But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."**

DISCUSSION GUIDELINE:

- **THE THREE TESTS WE'VE LEARNT TODAY WERE:**

1. **PRESSURE TEST (BREAKING THE QUIT SPIRIT)**
2. **OFFENSE TEST (ITS DRIVEN BY A DARKER FORCE, IT HAS BIGGER GOAL THAN JUST YOUR EMOTION)**
3. **LURE OF WEALTH TEST (LEARN HOW TO SIMPLIFY YOUR CROWDED LIFE)**

WHICH AREAS OF YOUR LIFE DO YOU OFTEN FALL SHORT IN? WHAT PRACTICAL WAYS WILL YOU DO TO STRENGTHEN YOURSELVES IN THAT AREA.

ITS NOT YOUR FEELING THEY ARE AFTER.

IT'S THE SEED THEY ARE AFTER
IT'S THE SEED THEY ARE AFRAID OF
BECAUSE ONCE THE SEED APROSPHER, YOU BECOME UNSTOPPABLE FOR HIS KINGDOM

Mk. 4:20 But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

CLOSE WITH PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER.