

## **“TRUTH IN TENSION”**

**Dan 3:17-18**

*Martin Luther said most people are like drunken peasants; They fall off one side of the donkey or the other. 3HC are amazing: they are able to hold conflicting truths in tension/in balance. This is true in pastoring. Found in the statement “But if not...”*

### **I. FAVOR AND BATTLES**

#### **A. Unbelief is deadly to ministry**

##### **1. Men who have a wrong theology of God/ministry**

*a. God wants you to suffer/you have to earn favor through struggle: Man said to me – you're gonna die!*

##### **2. So they don't expect God to help them: Which is usually self-fulfilling!**

*a. Matthew 9:29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you."*

#### **B. Jesus sends us with the authority necessary to succeed**

*1. Luke 9:1 He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases.*

*a. He loves them enough to give them the supernatural power to carry out God's will*

*1. We believe for favor/we expect help/we pray for power*

*2. We view problems as being unacceptable – and use authority to change things*

#### **C. But at the same time you have to allow for the possibility of struggle**

*1. The devil hates the work of God – will do all he can to fight/resist*

*a. Ministry will be harder than anything you can imagine:*

*1. People frustrations 2. Natural stresses 3. Demonic assaults*

*2. So you have to have a file for “but if not...”*

*a. We then are willing to battle through – can't let struggle spin us out*

*1. The Fellowship isn't wrong 2. Your Pastor isn't evil 3. Your wife isn't a witch 4. You aren't the worst person*

*b. Faith is a fight: I'm going to keep believing God while battling it through*

### **II. ABUNDANCE AND WORK**

#### **A. Ministry requires money**

*1. We need to eat and pay bills while doing God's will*

*a. Our Fellowship: We temporarily support men*

*1. All men 3 months 2. Then it depends on ability, experience and response*

*2. The ultimate goal is that we have people in our church to support our ministry*

*a. Luke 10:7 remain in the same house, eating and drinking such things as they give, for the laborer is worthy of his wages.*

*1. That is a sign of a healthy ministry/healthy church: Self-supporting*

#### **B. But if not...we need to get a job**

*1. This is a Bible principle: The tent-making Pastor*

*a. Acts 18:3 because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers.*

*2. This is not an assault on your worth as a man/man of God*

*a. It is a necessity b. We do whatever it takes to fulfill the privilege of ministry*

#### **C. We can prepare in advance to make things easier**

*1. Don't have debt 2. Get reasonable housing 3. Don't have to live a plush lifestyle*

*a. Make sure you understand organization and prioritization*

*1. You will have severe time pressures*

### **III. STRUGGLE AND SURRENDER**

#### **A. The reality is that sometimes ministry doesn't go well**

*1. We see the Bible record of demons not being cast out – getting run out of town in Acts*

*2. If we let our pride get in the way – we will refuse to surrender*

*a. I will look bad b. I will never get another chance at ministry (not true)*

*3. But long-term struggle is bad for us – bad for our families*

*a. You develop strange attitudes towards headship/ministry/salvation*

#### **B. So sometimes redirection is a wise course: But if not...**

*1. It didn't work now: So I will go home and get refreshed and hear from God*

*a. We need to settle in our heart we will do this with a good attitude*

*b. We need to determine to be a blessing to the people who have invested in us*

*1. What were you before – that caused you to be chosen? Do that again!*

*2. This enables God to help us – and we can find God's will later on*

*a. Our attitude in coming back will determine what God is able to do in us/for us/through us*