

## “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