

THE MASTER'S CLASS ON PIONEERING #5 "Shaking the Dust"

Matt 10:11-15

Pilots: They train them what to do if things go wrong: Mentally preparing for possibility that things might go wrong. Our script: Jesus sending disciples out – preparing them for possibility of trouble – so they survive.

I. REALITY OF REJECTION

A. Possible to have an unrealistic view of life & ministry

1. B/C I am called/doing right/God is with me – I will automatically always be a success
 - a. Failing to take into account spiritual warfare: The enemy fights our labors/fights our ministry
 - b. Failing to take into account personal limitations:
 1. Ministry is doing things you've never done before – you will learn to do it correctly/do it well
 - c. Failing to take into account human will: We make the offer of salvation – they can accept/refuse!
 1. EVERY Pastor has/has had people that don't like/them/don't receive them/reject them

B. Jesus is saying we must have a theology that includes the possibility of failure

1. He didn't want them to be blindsided by the realities of life
 - a. *Even Jesus had some people/areas that didn't respond to Him*
2. This is not defeatist/lack of faith
 - a. God will ultimately bring victory/work His will: That doesn't mean you will win every battle

II. DEFILED BY DUST

A. The "No-Surrender" syndrome

1. In the face of obvious evidence of unresponsiveness – we refuse to entertain idea of any change
 - a. *Jap soldier hiding in a cave in Pl: I'm not leaving! War ended 40 years before*
2. It can become a matter of pride
 - a. *God told me...we don't run from the devil, brother!*

B. Losing sight of our calling

1. The devil is the master of mind games
 - a. *If it's not working – it's b/c you're not called/you shouldn't be pastoring*
 1. Use up all their mental/emotional/spiritual energy wrestling w/basic issue of calling

C. Defiled by the dust

1. Picture: Carry the dust of failure with you – into other areas
 - a. Allow this to be tracked into all of life – dirties their view of selves/ministry/God
 1. *I am a failure/God must not like me/won't help me/everyone is looking at me, thinking about my failure*
2. In worst case scenario – we allow ourselves to be used in defiling others
 - a. *Discouraging disciples/new pastors*

III. CORRECT RESPONSE

A. If it's not working – sometimes it is wisest to move on

1. Especially true in large cities: The area we're in can make a major difference
 - a. Extreme poverty or danger: *People unwilling to come*
 - b. Sometimes the building can make a difference
2. Redirection may become a necessary possibility: Regroup/get healed up/refocus
 - a. *Had situations where couple refuses to return – they just leave the fellowship!*
 - b. *Return and don't pray/witness/support/encourage*

1. This is not a pastoring issue: It's a salvation issue – a character issue!

3. Balance found in relationship with your pastor
 - a. *Moving not a simple answer! Same you in a new location – sometimes get the same result*

B. Necessary action: Shaking the dust

1. *I knew a couple who did this literally: Pastor & people literally shook the dust off as they left town! God's going to judge you!*
2. This is for our benefit! Don't let the dust of failure/disappointment cling to you – become the defining moment of life
 - a. *Major difference between one who says "I have failed" and one who says "I am a failure"*
3. This is only possible as we surrender our pride/significance to God
 - a. *I am loved by God/called by God/sent by God – this setback doesn't define me – who I am*
4. This is also possible as you trust God: There are no wasted steps/no wasted time
 - a. *Psalms 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered of the Lord; and he delights in his way.*

1. Lack of success/rejection is all part of God's plan: Able to bring you into His will.