

FINDING FAVOR SM

Proverbs 3:3-4

In pastoring there will be opportunities to preach to audiences where there's a larger amount unsaved people. (*Weddings, Funerals, Baby Dedications, Baptisms*)

How you approach these can help or hurt your success, reputation, & future at events like these. Story: A Pastor preached a wedding & from the pulpit told 2 *disruptive teens* to SHUT UP & listen- Our scripture gives us keys to finding favorable ministry.

Proverbs 3:3-4 Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man.

I THE HEART ATTITUDE

A- Favorable Ministry begins in you; It starts with a healthy heart attitude

1. **Prov3:3** *Write them on the tablet of your heart*, Get the right things written on your heart.

a. Some people have the wrong things written on their heart: Pride/Position/Works

2. The right things start with **Mercy & Truth**: *By Gods mercy I am not reaping the truth of what I deserve-*

a. When you have a revelation of what you have received, that gets written into the code of your heart.

B- So from this RIGHT heart, we will have the right heart attitude towards people

1. See the word Ministry (which is part of what pastoring is) means; To serve/Service... Jesus had this right-

a. **Matthew 20:25-28** But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. 26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave-- 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

2. When you have a right perspective of self & serving is your heart; it flows into your interactions w people

a. **Prov4:23** *Guard your heart with all diligence, for from it flow springs of life*. What is in you will flow out.

b. **Luke 6:45** *A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks*. The heart attitude matters! The heart attitude is the basis for favorable ministry.

II HEART PREACHING

A- So when the heart attitude is right, the words you speak will be anointed with the right things

1. **Prov3:3** *Let not mercy and truth forsake you*.

a. Jesus had this right: He could speak hard truth, but it would be received because he was filled with mercy.

i. **Jn3:17** *For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved*. Jesus came to save not condemn. He spoke Truth with Mercy. It was who He was

B- So the idea is **Balance**: a balanced heart, preaches a balanced message. Mercy & Truth

1. **Mercy**: *love, loyalty, loving devotion, steadfast love, kindness...*

2. **Truth**: *Faithfulness and kindness...*

3. I have preached events with hard sinners, back sliders, rebels, religious... and b/c the Heart was balanced, the message was balanced. ...*I have sat under the opposite, and it was not helpful- Actually HARMFUL & consequential damage*.

III FINDING FAVOR

A- The blessing of this ministry is **FAVOR**: **Prov3:4** *And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man*

1. You will find **Favor w/God**.

a. B/c As His representative (Ambassadors; 2Cor5), You have captured the Heart of God. He will Anoint you.

2. You will find **Favor w/People**. people will listen, people will be impacted, people will respond

a. IOW: You will be successful: *I have seen people are saved/relationships healed/people restored*

3. Connected to that success is you will have a good reputation; V4-NLT *Then you will find favor with both God and people, and you will earn a good reputation*.

a. I've had people vouch for me b/c of this type of ministry. *Pastored 2 couples that didn't want a church wedding based on past experiences... married outside... but after seeing 2 of mine- told others DO A CHURCH WEDDING*

i. I've done Multiple funerals for families b/c of this type of ministry & have seen the fruit- *To this day years later one family in particular still references our investment-*