

## ***Session 4 Joseph’s Dungeon: Humility and Bearing the Stigma***

This will be a little bit different from the other teachings in these eight sessions on the prophetic history of IHOP-KC. In the other teachings, I focused mostly on supernatural events. I am going to talk about one supernatural event in particular, but it has so much weight and importance to us that if we miss this one, then all the other promises are lost, or at least diminished. That is where my greatest concern is.

### **CULTIVATING A FAITHFUL AND FEARLESS HEART**

So I am going to share the experience, and then I am going to break the experience down a little bit. I want to talk about how this relates to the other promises and how we respond. This session’s focus is on the heart responses that the Lord requires from us. It is the heart responses that He requires when He entrusts a greater measure of the Holy Spirit to us.

He wants these heart responses from everybody, no matter what. However, when He entrusts a greater measure to us, He requires a greater heart response. When the Lord visits us, there are greater consequences, both positive and negative, when He has entrusted more to us. We have to have a faithful heart in terms of obedience and humility. We have to have a fearless heart because there is a God-orchestrated stigma upon the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

### **GOD-ORCHESTRATED STIGMA WHEN GOD RELEASES MORE OF HIS PRESENCE**

For many people, when they think of revival, they think, “Wow! Power . . . excitement.” Beloved, revival is power and excitement, but it is also accompanied by a stigma. A lot of folks are thinking of the promises, and they are only thinking of the positive and the excitement. There is a huge down side, because, as my friend Francis Frangipane has said so often: “New levels, new devils.” If there are new levels of power, there are new levels of attack.

New levels bring new devils. I believe that the most challenging aspect of a move of God is not going to be the greater requirement for more dedication. The greatest challenge will be the bearing of reproach, or the stigma. What I would say as well, is the attitude that we have towards others, others who are different in the Body of Christ, or others who mistreat us. It is critical—we have to have a different attitude.

### **THE FEAR OF MAN IS USUALLY THE MOST CHALLENGING ISSUE**

In the God-orchestrated stigma, I think that the fear of man is more challenging than a dedication to a fasted lifestyle. I think it is easy to live a fasted lifestyle, yet yield to the fear of man. A lot of people pray and fast, but they yield to the fear of man. So do not think that because we have said yes to prayer and fasting that it is over, we have got it made, and it is done. What the Holy Spirit did on the day of Pentecost is a pattern of what He will do in many places in the end times. You can read the verse from Acts 2 on your own, but on the day of Pentecost there was wind, fire, and wine—those were three different distinct manifestations of the Holy Spirit. Of course, those are whole categories of Holy Spirit activity.

### **DAY OF PENTECOST IN ACTS 2: PATTERN FOR THE OUTPOURING OF THE SPIRIT**

Roman numeral II. The wind speaks of the supernatural realm—the realm where the angels are actively involved. The buildings are shaking, and there are creative miracles. The fire speaks of the conviction of the Holy Spirit: that heart-wrenching conviction of repentance and that passionate love for Jesus—that burning

heart. The wine speaks of the healing and restoration of the heart: making the heart glad with the joy of the Lord. It is important to understand this, as we go into this next experience with the Lord.

### **JOSEPH'S DUNGEON: CALL TO HUMILITY (APRIL 1984)**

This is the experience that we talk about when we use the phrase *Joseph's dungeon*. Bob Jones saw Joseph's dungeon a year after the May 1983 Solemn Assembly. So we had fasted and prayed in May 1983. Remember, at the end of the fast, Bob Jones got up and said that the spiritual drought that is over our nation is not going to lift right now. There would be pockets of God's blessing here and there always. But Bob Jones said that the spiritual drought was not lifting right then. In other words, the full revival that we were believing for had not yet come. So for the last year—May, June, July, and August—I had been asking one main question: When will the drought be over? When? Lord, is the drought breaking this month?

I am thinking more in months not in years, and the Lord is thinking more of decades, not even years. I am thinking months, and the Lord is thinking decades. "Lord, is it this month that the drought breaks?" That was the predominate question I had. On a Saturday morning in April 1984—I remember this day just like it was yesterday—I am wide awake in the morning, lying on my bed, getting ready to go to the Saturday morning prayer meeting.

### **"I HAVE A REVELATION FOR YOU, CALL BOB JONES"**

Then, all of a sudden, the thunderous audible voice of God comes, and I am wide awake. This was not a dream, vision, or trance, but it was the audible voice of God. Thunder. The Lord says, "I have a revelation for you. Call Bob Jones." I absolutely am telling you what God said. That is so odd. I did not concern myself with that in that moment because it was thunderous. It was like it came from twenty miles away. It felt like it came from the stereo right out of my belly from the Holy Spirit. I do not understand it exactly. It felt like it came from twenty miles away. It was the strangest sound of power and authority; my being shook when this happened.

God said, "I have a revelation for you." Beloved, if God speaks audibly—and He has spoken to this movement, not just to me personally—this is a revelation that we must take very seriously. When God speaks thunderously from heaven to our movement, and He says, "I have a revelation for you," this is worthy of a whole session. We must pay attention to this revelation. Of the eight sessions, this is the only one that I am going to talk about more in a practical heart response rather than in just story after story. God said to call Bob Jones.

Again, that does not even strike me as odd that He did not just tell me what the revelation was. It never struck my mind to say, "Well, Lord, we are talking. Here we are, just tell me. You will tell it much better than Bob Jones can tell me." That never struck my mind because the audible voice of God shakes your being. It takes a while to recover from that. You do not get your sense of humor or your wit back for a while. I talked to Bob Jones a couple hours later on the telephone. He said, "Mike, I had an absolutely astounding experience this morning. The Lord wants me to tell it to you."

I said, "I am sure that is true, Bob."

Bob said, "I went into the visions of Joseph's dungeon. I went into the visions. I was there. I saw the two men who were representative of the two ministries in the Body of Christ, even right now, but the messages were yet to come." The weight of this message is yet future though it had a very important present tense application twenty-five years ago. Bob saw two men. They represented the two types of ministries.

## **THE CUPBEARER AND THE BAKER**

You can read the Genesis 40:2-19 account on your own. The story of Joseph. Joseph is in the dungeon. There is a cupbearer, and a cupbearer serves the wine to the king. That is what a cupbearer does. And there is also the baker. The baker makes the bread for the king's family. Both of them were being accused of putting poison in their service to the king. If you put poison in the bread and serve it to the king, you are executed because you are trying to kill the king's family. If you put poison in the king's wine, that is a really serious offense. If you read the Genesis 40 story, we see that Bob's visionary experience went along with the actual story line in Genesis 40.

One man was proved guilty. The baker was put to death. The second man was proved innocent—the cupbearer, who was released out of prison. In the vision, the bread spoke of the ministry of the Word of God. Now the ministry of the Word is not just preaching. A lot of folks think of ministry of the Word of God as only preaching. Beloved, it is singing, writing, drama, testimony, and other means of portraying His heart. Today it comes in blogs, podcasts, and emails. With today's technology, a person can have a powerful ministry of communicating the heart of God and the Word of God without having a teaching gift, just by the power of global communication.

You may have the email that changes a nation. You may write a three-sentence email that ends up being put on the news in some nation that actually changes the nation, and you might not ever preach a sermon on a microphone.

Well, the baker was accused of poisoning the king's family. The Lord told Bob in this experience, "The bakers are ministries who are putting poison in the bread, and they are killing My family."

## **THE POISON IS WHEN MINISTRIES DO NOT PRODUCE HUMILITY IN GOD'S FAMILY**

The Lord told Bob this is what it means to have poison: it is when a ministry—whether it is song, drama, writing, or preaching—and the ministry does not produce humility. That is poison. If the ministry does not produce humility, it is poison. That does not mean every sermon, or every song has to be on the subject of humility; that is not the point, but the overall impact of our ministry must not just produce inspiration for people to come to the next meeting, go to the next prayer meeting, but it must contribute to producing humility in people's spirits.

This is a very powerful revelation. The Lord said this in a thunderous way to me and in His audible voice: "I have a revelation for you." This is what He is saying: our singing, interactions, writings, our stage presentation, how we come and go, and everything about us must produce humility. The Lord told Bob, "I am going to exalt the cupbearers from prison, and they are going to serve wine in the presence of the King."

## **"I WILL EXALT MY CUPBEARERS TO SERVE WINE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE KING"**

God said, "I am going to exalt the cupbearer to serve wine in the presence of the King." There are cupbearers who have been in prison. They have been in a time of struggle. They have been in a divine constraint season where they are hemmed in. They are in a prison season, in a figurative sense, where they are constrained. The Lord said, "I am going to liberate my servants out of prison, and I will exalt them. They will serve wine in my presence again."

Of course, there are lots of applications for that. Here is a very important point to me at that time. Bob Jones heard this in just that face-to-face encounter in the Holy Spirit. God said, "Tell them that it will begin in ten years, and I will exalt My cupbearers who will serve wine." The Lord told Bob that He is going to use this wine—this is an important point—to bring humility to the Body of Christ.

### **WINE WILL BRING HUMILITY, AND "IT WILL BEGIN IN TEN YEARS"**

I am going to break the way God uses wine down in a minute. He is going to use the wine to bring humility, because that is what is going to happen again. I have had four or five dreams in the last year or two that I believe were from the Lord; these were prophetic dreams where the Lord had shown me where He is going to pour wine out in our midst again—the wine of the Holy Spirit.

I am looking back to these lessons, and I remember the Lord said, "I have a revelation for you, Mike. I have a revelation for you. You must hear this revelation." I think it is related to this wine season that is yet ahead of us, as well as to our future. This is not a small point. The Lord was showing us that in His bigger picture, He is going to release wine first. I would prefer for God to release wind: the creative miracles, the building shaking, the whole city seized in power, and the activity of angels manifest in the natural. I like the wind. How many of you like the wind?

I like the fire, as I like the conviction of the Holy Spirit where there is heart-wrenching repentance that frees and liberates the heart to touch God. Fire convicts our hearts to deeply engage the first commandment and put this commandment in first place. It fuels our passionate commitment of devotion to love Him and for Him to be our portion. How many of you like the fire? I like the fire anointing. If it is from the Lord, it is good.

Well let's talk about the wine—the wine makes the heart happy. The wine of the Holy Spirit brings joy, and it heals. It causes the Father's love to touch us. I had not thought much about wine. I thought about fire and wind back in 1984. The Lord said, "I am going to put wine first, and the reason I am choosing wine is to produce humility." I could never have understood what that was going to lead to. I believe that there will be another season of wine, and we are going to see it again. We need to learn these lessons.

Some time passes and it strikes me, "Lord, why did You not just tell me directly? I mean You talked to me—You spoke audibly, thunderously, and You shook my being. Why did I need to call another person?"

### **WE NEED ONE ANOTHER TO RECEIVE THE FULLNESS OF WHAT HE HAS FOR US**

The answer became very clear in the following days: God wants us to understand that we need one another to receive the fullness of revelation. I cannot enter into the fullness for my life by just my own personal dedication and me. I need to interact with you in your dedication for me to receive my fullness. Part of my fullness is in your hands. Part of your fullness is in my hands. That is not just true of people inside one ministry. Part of the IHOP–KC fullness is in the hands of other ministries, so we can receive from them, and they teach us, and we learn. We serve them. We give to them. They give to us. Part of our fullness is in the hands of others. The Lord even strategically withholds something from one ministry and gives an extra measure to another ministry.

God does it strategically so we have to go over to that other ministry to receive from them, and in the process of receiving from them, we fall in love with them. We would have never taken time to interact with that other ministry, but we were so desperate to have the grace of God that they have, that we took the time and the energy to invest. In doing this, we discovered that we like these guys and gals. That is how love relationships are

happening. So even as we are going forward in the power of the ministry that the Lord is going to release, He is going to cause there to be many deficiencies in our midst on purpose. He wants us to reach across the lines and to receive the fullness from others. This is even a part of the humility message.

### **IT WILL BEGIN IN TEN YEARS**

Number one: the Lord spoke two things that were hard for me to receive. First, that this would not begin for ten years. Now I am fifty-four years old. When I was twenty-eight years old, I had only had my driver's license for about ten years. I mean the idea of ten years seemed like another world away. When Bob Jones said ten years, that felt like a death sentence.

I said, "Ten years? I will be almost forty years old. It will be too late. Ten years?"

Bob said, "Well, ten years will be here in a minute."

I said, "No! That is the most horrible word I can imagine." But the Lord wanted me to get a perspective that He is not just orchestrating how to have a little lively revival spirit in our ministry for a few years. The Lord is orchestrating His global end-time purposes that are going to result in the coming of Jesus and in the transition to another age. He is operating on a strategic global level.

We must be receiving and serving in a dynamic interaction with ministries globally to understand what He is saying from the counsel, the witness that God is giving the larger Body of Christ. He is going to give wine first.

### **THE MOVE WILL BEGIN WITH WINE INSTEAD OF FIRE**

That was the second thing: He would begin with wine instead of the fire. I was praying for fire, and He said that He would start with wine. I said, "Wine?"

He said, "Yes." At that point, I had never seen a meeting where the wine of the Holy Spirit was poured out. I said, "Wine? You mean like Charles Finney, where he preached with the power of God, and thousands got saved?" Read the book of Acts. See what wine is. They were happy. I was thinking more of being intense.

Ten years later, the renewal hit Toronto in 1994; the renewal of 1994 was not just a blessing that happened in Toronto. Some of you who are younger will not know much about the Toronto Blessing. But for those of you who have been around a while, it was frontline news in the Body of Christ for many years. By the way, the Lord is still blessing and pouring out His Holy Spirit in Toronto. It does not have the global prominence it had for about five years, but the Lord is still moving, touching, and meeting them. I just want to say that.

### **THE RENEWAL OF 1994: GOD'S BLESSING AND CRUCIBLE FOR HUMILITY**

Roman numeral IV. But what God did in Toronto—there are many lessons from that outpouring that still affects our future. That is why I am taking time on this. In the last session, I talked about how the lessons with the Vineyard affected our future. The Lord is pouring wine out on a global level, and He is getting the Body of Christ ready for fire. I believe the fire was released in a measure in Pensacola. There was a fire dimension, but all of these are just measures right now. The measure is going to be far greater before the Lord returns in all of these dimensions.

## **THE LORD IS LOOKING FOR MINISTRIES THAT WILL EMBRACE HUMILITY**

The Lord released wine first was for many reasons. But according to the revelation that God spoke to me on that day, it was to produce humility in leaders so they would produce it in others. That was on very few people's minds. When the wine was flowing most, people were just thinking of receiving and getting happy. The Lord had a very different agenda. It is to humble everyone across the line. There were people who received it and believed it, and there were people who resisted it.

Everybody was humbled when the wine was poured out, because the agenda of God in pouring out His Spirit is not just happy meetings. It is not just even larger meetings with more people getting saved—certainly, people getting saved is the top of the list, but it is more than just an outreach, and we are excited. He wants to produce mass humility in the Body of Christ on a global scale. He has an agenda, and it is not necessarily the same agenda that we have when we cry out for revival. Often, people are crying out for healing and power so that the meetings are bigger, more exciting, and they do want Jesus and get saved.

But Jesus wants us to bear the cross. As the preacher said: the same God who orchestrated the crucifixion of Jesus is orchestrating your crucifixion right now. What he meant by that is that God is going to see that we walk in humility.

## **PEOPLE WHO LIVE FOR HUMILITY ARE STABLE AND HARD TO OFFEND**

People who live for humility are hard to offend. They are stable. They are hard to offend. It is not only that we would be humble—it is not enough that we would be humble. He wants us to produce humility in the new believers. He wants us to produce humility in us and actively produce humility in others. This revelation really affected me. Of course, it is clear enough in the Bible by itself, but when you have this revelation that the Lord is focusing on, it puts a heightened focus on it.

Beloved, here is the question to IHOP–KC—to our leadership team, to me, to all of us: in all that we are doing, are we actively trying to produce humility in the people who are receiving our songs, our dramas, our teachings, or our writing. This is the Lord's agenda for the outpouring in terms of the Body of Christ worldwide. Of course, it is to relieve the oppressed, win the lost, and many other things; but at the core of it, it is to bring us into humility.

In the spring of 1994, the Lord poured out the wine of the Holy Spirit in Toronto. Of course, we know the names John Arnott and Randy Clark. It started at the ten-year mark, just like Bob Jones said, with the wine of the Holy Spirit. I had never heard of the wine of the Spirit. In 1994, ten years later, the wine of the Spirit was on the front-page news of the Body of Christ—in the Western world, at least. It was a very dynamic move.

## **PART OF THE NEW EXPRESSION OF CHRISTIANITY IS TO HONOR JESUS' LEADERSHIP**

The Lord promised, "I am going to change the expression of Christianity." There is a new expression: it is in our attitude of honoring Jesus. We have to cooperate with the Spirit. This is a tough one. It seems simple, but this is one of the most challenging things. We cannot neglect the wine when He pours it out. We cannot resist it. Some people do not resist it, they just neglect it. They do not oppose it. They just say, "I do not think much about it." But we cannot exaggerate it either. We cannot exaggerate it or overdo it. We cannot underdo it either, or just ignore it. We cannot stand against it. I want an attitude towards the Holy Spirit that honors what the Lord wants.

There are four groups that come to mind when I think of the outpouring of the Spirit. The wine is the most offensive of the three. People probably really are offended with the fire of conviction and repentance. If you repent, then your friend says, "Oh, you mean that you are implying that I am supposed to repent too? So I am sure that it has its problems, but the wine has a stigma to it that is God-orchestrated. I mean people are happy, falling over, flopping, kicking and all these strange things that are new. Undoubtedly, there is what I call "hamburger helper" in some of it, but there is also an authentic reality. There is an authentic reality in some of this as well. I mean a lot of things that were very unorthodox were totally of the Lord.

**GOD IS NOT OUT TO HURT OUR PRIDE, HE IS OUT TO KILL IT: FOUR DIFFERENT GROUPS**

I tell the Lord, "You are not out to hurt our pride, You are out to kill it." If we do this, we are over in terms of respectability. I get it and can connect the dots. The Lord is saying, "I am pouring out wine for this purpose." I found that there were four groups in the renewal: the people who resisted the wine because they were simply unfamiliar with it. They had never seen it, so they were against it because they had never seen it. That is not a good enough reason. Humility will answer that.

The next group resisted it because it did not start with them. They had to go a couple of miles down the road to get it from another ministry, and they said, "We believe it, but we are not going to have our people touch another ministry."

The Lord answered, "That does not work either. Humility can fix that one." Well the anointed guys and gals, they were attacked everywhere. They said, "Lord, we are being faithful. We are being attacked everywhere with false accusations and all kinds of things."

The Lord's answer is, "Well, humility will fix that one too."

Then, there were those who exaggerated it. On a scale of one to ten, what happened to them was like a two, but they made it out to be a four, a six, and an eight. There is a reproach that goes with that as well. Humility fixes all of these. There are a couple other categories you could put in there. The category I am most concerned about is the bearing of the stigma of the wine. We have not seen that much activity of the Holy Spirit compared to what is going to happen in the future; we think of the activity of the Holy Spirit mostly, again, as exciting, not as a reproach, but more as an excitement.

**GOD-ORCHESTRATED STIGMA ON THE ANOINTING OF THE SPIRIT**

The truth is it is both. It is exciting, and it also causes us to bear a reproach. Therefore, we have to be sober about the reproach and the next thing. It is not just the bearing of the reproach; it is the attitude of lowness when the Lord puts something in your hand. The attitude of humility is when the Lord gives you a little bit. What we do with that extra that He gives to us.

1 Corinthians 4:9: "For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men." Here is Paul the apostle speaking: God has displayed us apostles. He has displayed us as last. One translation says "God put us in the showcase." He put us in the showcase, or in the store window, and people came by and gawked at us. He put us on open display as looking last. He is talking about putting us last in honor.

### **NOT DRAWING BACK IN FEAR OF MAN**

When the people saw the apostles—we read the book of Acts, and we say, “Wow!” But, we must remember that God displayed them in their day, not by the Devil, but they were displayed as last among men. They have been made a spectacle by God, not Satan. Even the angels look at them and say, “Wow.” That is intense and that is what they are going through. I do not know what that means exactly—a spectacle to angels— but even the angels see the dedication of the apostles, the way that they are reproached and rejected.

They rejected the Messiah when He came in power, wisdom, and dignity. He said, “We are fools, we are weak, we are dishonored, we are reviled, and we are persecuted.” Beloved, we are dreaming of an anointing where we are first, not last. We want to be seen not as a spectacle, but we are honored. We are not fools, but we look wise to everyone; we do not look weak, but we look strong. We do not look dishonored; we look honored. We are talked about positively—not reviled.

Beloved, that is the wrong image. When these promises unfold, there will be a stigma if we are faithful to them, and we will be by the grace of God. Then, there will also be an attitude of humility that even those who do not back away from the stigma, they do not have a generosity of spirit towards others in the Body of Christ who are different and especially to others in the Body of Christ who resist them.

### **MANY OF GOD'S SERVANTS IN HISTORY WERE REJECTED BY GOD'S PEOPLE**

The Lord says, “I require humility straight across the line, or you are going to lose or diminish the promises.” I know that I am giving a little bit of a teaching. I do not want to do that too much in these eight sessions. I just want to give the stories, but all of these eight one-hour sessions of testimonies will be lost or diminished on this issue. The Lord said by thunder, “I have a revelation for you, Mike Bickle. I have a revelation for you. Call Bob Jones.”

The wine is going to produce humility, but if it does not produce humility, it is going to poison the Body of Christ, God's family. I look across the Body of Christ, and so much that is being honored, displayed, and promoted does not produce humility. That is not my business to go figure that part out. It is my business to say it does not matter how it goes down in the public arena. We must stand for what the Holy Spirit is saying and doing. We must have a generous spirit toward everyone, be friendly, give him or her what we have, and bless those who are opposed, to serve him or her in all ways possible without drawing attention to the fact that we are doing it.

The Lord says, “Now, I will give power into that kind of community.” I am very grateful for John Arnott and many others who took a courageous stand. I just saw the reproach they took. I think we will be surprised how many fear of man issues are going to surface when the wind, fire, and wine begin to manifest at a new level. I mean fear of man issues in us because the Lord is going to put us on display.

The Lord is going to exhibit us. All whom He anoints—He is going to put them on display as last. That is not the American dream. That is not a Western paradigm. That is not something the Body of Christ is excited about— being put on display as last. We are praying and fasting to get the anointing to be first. The Lord says, “You are praying and fasting. I am going to anoint you to make you last. This is where it is going.”

We will just spend a moment on this. This will be a shorter session than the other ones because I wanted to pause from these glorious stories, which have a spectacular element. Some are kind of mystical and have a perplexing element.

### **ESTABLISHING A CULTURE OF HONOR**

Roman numeral V. Right in the middle of these eight one-hour sessions, I wanted to just lock in and have a reality check. Do we really want these things to happen? Of course we answer yes, but I am not just talking about the excitement, I am talking about bearing stigma in a spirit of honor and servanthood. We will just take a minute on this.

God wants to establish a culture of honor. This is what the Holy Spirit really wants to do. We love God by honoring everybody who He calls us to and everyone who is dear to Him. All the different streams, denominations, and tribes in the Body of Christ approach ministry differently, they look different, and they express it differently. The Lord says, "They are all dear to Me. Do not write them off. They are dear to Me. I want them honored. I require that you deal together in a culture of honor." I do not mean just among each other, that we honor the ministries that we live with. That is very important, but I am talking about how we honor the ministries in our city, our nation, in the nations that do it differently than we do and that do not appreciate us. We honor them. We bless when we are reviled. The Holy Spirit insists on this if we are going to be those who walk in the greater dimensions of the Holy Spirit. God loves the whole Body of Christ and He wants us to love the whole Body of Christ as well.

### **LOVE AND HONOR FOR THE ENTIRE BODY OF CHRIST IN A SPIRIT OF HUMILITY**

Jesus loves the whole Body of Christ. Imagine that concept: He loves the whole Church. At the core of our community, everybody believes for the greater breakthrough. We must love the whole Church, not just the ones who look like us. Baptists, Nazarenes, Presbyterians, Anglicans, Episcopal, Catholics, I am talking about born-again Catholics, there are millions of them who are born-again. Through salvation by faith, they are born again. They typically use the word *Spirit-filled*, but they are connected to Jesus, millions of them. All kinds of non-denominations, and here is why I am saying this: we must bless without criticism. We must understand God's heart for other ministries. When we understand His heart for other ministries, it will convince us that He desires to bless them. This is based on revelation, not political expediency.

### **THE LORD WARNS ABOUT A CONTROL SPIRIT**

I have another story I want to tell: I am in Cardiff, Wales, and the Lord says, "You must relinquish all rights. No one with a control spirit will possess the blessings of God. When I give you the blessing, you must think of ways to give it away free."

We cannot even say, "Well, come join us." The Lord looks at that and says, "No, do not give it away so that they join you. You have to possess the kingdom without a control spirit." The money, the blessing, the honor. Here is one thing that I insist on: anybody can recruit from us anytime they want. Our copyright is the right to copy. And it is more than that. We need to be thinking of ways where we can make other ministries successful without it ever coming back to bless us in a way consciously. Giving them time, people, and money with no way that it comes back and makes us better or bigger. We must do this simply because God loves His Church. Well, they might never come back and bless us. This is called the kingdom of God.

Some might say, “Well, they are different from us, and they are not really doing our thing.”

The Lord answers, “Perfect, serve them. That is called the kingdom of God.”

### **BLESSING WITHOUT CRITICISM**

There are many in the Body of Christ who are different from us; we agree on the main and plain things of the faith, but we have many differences. We agree on salvation by faith and the authority of the Scripture. We agree on the two great commandments. We agree on evangelizing the lost. We agree on the need to transform the city, the mandate to do it, and disciple nations, but many other things are different. The Lord says, “If you agree on those main and plain things, you can honor one another. Open your heart to each other.”

### **INCLUSION WITHOUT ELITISM**

If we think that secretly we are a little better, or a little more dedicated, it will feed a spirit of pride. If any of us think we are a little more dedicated, the Lord says, “Do not go there. Do not even go there. It is critical.” If you are going to operate in the healing anointing, the authority of the Spirit, these great breakthroughs of power, we must have a heart response that is in line with the Holy Spirit who is releasing the power.

Elitism or humility can be imparted. We can impart humility to our students, or we can impart elitism to them. The young people are like wet cement. They will follow the spirit, the tone, and the style of what their leaders do consistently. We consciously want to impart humility. This is very deliberate and intentional. It is not something that if it happens, that is cool.

The Lord said, “I have a revelation for you,”—thundered from heaven—“You better get this one.”

We say, “Well, we want the church to know how special our prophecies are, or how great our promises are.”

The Lord says, “Do not just impart that. If that is all you impart, your history is going to be cut short.” The last thing that I want from preaching these eight sessions is for us, as a spiritual family, to go away thinking, “We have great promises, we have got dedicated people, we are awesome! Sorry, friend. You guys must be left out.” That would be the most grievous thing imaginable, celebrating all the great things God is saying about our future. We have to know that the Lord is requiring a spirit of humility in all of this.

### **WE MUST IMPART HUMILITY, BLESSING BUDDING VIRTUES IN OTHERS**

Three simple principles: we bless without criticism. We bless the budding virtues in other ministries that have not yet matured. We bless them. Yes, they have deficiencies. Yes, we have differences. We bless all ministries that we have agreement with on the main and plain things of salvation.

Some say, “Yeah, but they do not have teaching. They do not do the prayer. They do not do the outreach. They do not do the youth ministry. They do not have the this or that.”

The Lord answers, “But they all have deficiencies; IHOP–KC has many deficiencies. You do not just bless the group with no deficiencies.”

You bless everybody if they love Jesus. Don't say, "Well, they are different in style and focus. They push people down in the prayer lines, and we do not,"—you'd better not push people down here. If they push people down, that is their business. We will bless them. We do not have to point out the differences.

Now in this house, you cannot push people down. The Lord says, "You do not talk about that. The Holy Spirit has forbidden us as a community to put down other ministries because of their deficiencies or differences." If we do, I have insisted on this, you must confess it as sin to the people you did it to. If any of our leaders puts down another ministry, they must repent. We cannot criticize. We cannot do it based on their deficiencies or their differences. The Holy Spirit has forbidden us. We must bless. We must have a culture of honor.

It is more than a blessing, inclusion. This is what I was referring to a minute ago. We have to understand. When we understand God's value for other people, then we see those people differently. I am talking about other ministries. We set our heart. We are going to say, "Lord, we are going to use our resources to make them more successful without it ever trickling back to us." Now in God's kingdom, He always makes it come back, but that is up to Him. I am talking about not having an agenda.

We are not talking at their conference so that they will join us. That is not the point. We are going to their conference because we want to strengthen who they are. We want to give them money not so they will come to us, but so that they are stronger. We want to bless them with no context of it coming back to us. The Lord wants us to think of ways to bless the other churches and ministries with none of it coming back.

### **LOYALTY TO THE TRUTH WITHOUT COMPROMISE**

Principle number three: we have got to be loyal to truth as well. Others' deficiencies are between them and God, but in our house here we want to be loyal to truth. There are destructive doctrines and behaviors. Those need to be addressed, but they need to be addressed in the right process in the right spirit.

So I am ending with that. I realize that I have a bunch more stories, but I have the fear of the Lord on me right now. I am thinking we are at this ten-year mark, and we are saying yes to these stories. I just feel the Holy Spirit brooding over our saying yes: "You have said yes to the stories. What about saying yes to the stigma? What about saying yes to the attitude of humility and being a servant? What about that?"

We cannot say, "No, Lord, we have got power, lightning striking, massive numbers, waves of glory, worship, stadiums filled, and processions down the road. Life is going to be great and fun."

The Lord says, "Well, it is going to have some joy in it, but it is going to be a lot different from how you think when it happens." Let he who has ears hear what the Spirit is saying.

Amen and amen. God bless you.