Session 11 Overcoming Jezebel: Immorality and Idolatry (Rev. 2)

1. Review: the call to love God with all of our heart
	1. Jesus spoke seven messages to the Church in John’s generation (Rev. 1-3), knowing that they would also apply to the end-time Church living in context to the unprecedented revival, temptations, pressures, and persecutions described throughout the book of Revelation.
	2. Jesus’ declaration in Matthew 22:37-38 is one of the most significant statements in Scripture.

37“‘You shall love the Lord…’ 38This is the first and great commandment.” (Mt. 22:37-38)

*The highest priority to God is that we would love Him with all of our heart. It is the thing that makes our lives and our life choices great: that determination to love Him.*

* 1. John made a stunning prophetic declaration that the Church will eventually become a prepared Bride (Rev. 19:7). The greatest corporate miracle in history is the transformation of the end-time Church from spiritual compromise into a *“prepared Bride”* walking in the first commandment.

7…for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. (Rev. 19:7)

*I love this verse–Revelation 19:7. John made this stunning declaration. I mean, it is stunning if you take it at face value. He sees at the end of the age, before the Lord returns, that the Church is made ready as a prepared Bride. This is the greatest corporate miracle in human history, that the end-time compromising Church is transformed in one generation into a prepared Bride. This is the greatest miracle in human history, minus Jesus Himself becoming a man and coming to the earth for us. Amazing transformations are going to take place within the timeframe of one generation. A compromising Church struggling with immorality, covetousness, and spiritual dullness awakened with such a revelation of the beauty of this Man that she understands herself as a bride and gives herself fully to Him in love.*

* 1. The end-time Church will be established in her spiritual identity as a cherished Bride (Rev. 22:17).

17The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come!” (Rev. 22:17)

*It is in that hour. It has not happened yet, but we are seeing whispers of it. The Church globally will see her spiritual identity as a cherished Bride. Yes, the family of God. Yes, sons of God. Yes, the Body of Christ. Yes, the army of God, and a number of things.*

*However, for the first time in history, the Spirit across the earth is going to emphasize the spiritual identity of the born-again believers in the earth as a cherished Bride. They have never, ever seen this in history. I mean, one here, one there, a little strand of this through history, but never has it been globally emphasized by the Spirit. But it is coming. You already see the whisper of it in the last ten to twenty years as there has been much, much more teaching on the Bride of Christ as our identity, and not just a Bride, but a cherished Bride, and not just a cherished Bride, but a prepared Bride, one equally yoked to Jesus in love. That is the storyline in the Book of Revelation right there. It is not how powerful the Antichrist is or how intensely God judges. It is a Bride made ready, who is cherished by the Lord and she feels it. She lives cleanly because she feels clean. She has confidence in His grace and in His leadership. It is absolutely fantastic.*

* 1. The biblical end-time storyline includes far more than a great end-time revival and trouble.
	It includes the Father raising up a *prepared Bride for His worthy Son*. If we lose sight of Jesus as a Bridegroom coming for His Bride, then the book of Revelation may be reduced to events and facts.

*We have said this the last couple of weeks, but I just love saying it: the biblical storyline includes far more than a great revival at the end, though there is a great revival coming before the Lord returns. It is far more than great trouble coming. The end-time biblical storyline is the Father raising up a prepared Bride for a worthy Son. That is the highest objective on His mind. He promised His worthy Son, “I will raise up a prepared Bride for You, and You will be equally yoked in love forever! That is what the Book of Revelation is about. It is not mostly about charts, horns, devils, and all that kind of stuff. That is in the storyline, but it is not the main point. The Father would say, “I am raising up a prepared Bride for a My worthy Son.” Wow!*

* 1. ***The Bridegroom revival***: Jesus will come to His people as a Bridegroom who wants all of their heart. The end-time *“Bridegroom revival”* will be far more invasive than any revival in history. Jesus will reveal and impart His love in an unprecedented way that will transform the Church.

*I call it the Bridegroom revival. Those final years leading up to Jesus’ coming is what I call the “Bridegroom revival.” That just my term, what I call it, and you can use any term you like, because the Spirit will be more invasive than in any revival in history. In the revivals throughout history, there have been people profoundly dedicated to walk in moral purity, profoundly dedicated to serve Him faithfully, but the Spirit has never, ever been as invasive as He will be. He would say, “I am coming after your heart. I want all of your heart. I do not want just your service. I do want your service, but I do not want only your moral standards and living obedience in your lifestyle. I want your heart!” And so the Spirit is going to press this issue like no other time in history.*

1. Jesus’ message to Pergamos and Thyatira (Rev. 2:12-29)
	1. Jesus encouraged those in Pergamos and Thyatira for persevering in the face of persecution (2:13) and for their diligent ministry (2:18), yet corrected them for not standing against false teachings that tolerated immorality and idolatry related to Jezebel (2:18-29) and Balaam (2:12-17).

12“To the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 13“…you hold fast to My name and did not
deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr…14I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak
to put a stumbling block before…Israel to [worship] idols and to commit sexual immorality…”’ 18To…the church in Thyatira write, ‘ “…19I know…your patience [perseverance]…20I have a
few things against you, because you allow [tolerate NAS] that woman Jezebel…to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.”’”
(Rev. 2:12-20)

*Let’s look at these two churches, Pergamos and Thyatira. Now we are going to look first at a quick overview, then we are going to break down a few of the key phrases. Again, this is Session 11, and I have already spent an hour on each one of the seven churches where I gave a lot more detail than I am going to give tonight. Tonight I am just bringing together the two churches that were challenged with immorality and idolatry which Jesus identified as the spirit of Jezebel. That is really what Jezebel is about: immorality and idolatry, the spirit of covetousness that is anchored in the occult and in the inspiration of the demonic kingdom where people sell-out anything to get financial gain because they are being motivated by powers of darkness. That is really the core issue of the spirit of Jezebel.*

*The reason I say that is that—and I want to be nice when I say this but—over the last thirty to forty years there has been a lot of teaching about Jezebel. A hundred years ago, I don’t think anybody talked about it, but in the last thirty or forty years you see more and more booklets. Jezebel has been falsely reduced to that poor lady who has a leadership gift, but is still developing her people skills, and so she is a little strong, and they think “Aghhhhh! Jezebel!” They do not call men, Jezebel; they just call them dumb, or arrogant, or pushy, or something. But if a woman has a strong leadership gift, and she is still growing in her people skills, “Jezebel!” That is not what Jezebel is, honestly. That is just a person learning her people skills. Give her a little bit of time, just like we give the boys a little bit of time, and the Lord is going to have His Bride ready and He is going to have anointed men and women skillful in leadership, so just give a little grace on that. I have watched this over thirty, forty years, and that is now what Jezebel is.*

*Yes, Jezebel, back in 1 Kings 18, had a really controlling spirit, etc., but the core root is immorality and idolatry, which is the pursuit of financial gain rooted in the inspiration of the power of darkness so any compromise seems worth it because they are clouded and overcome with the desire for financial gain. That is, in essence, what the spirit of Jezebel is. In America, the most profound expression of the spirit of Jezebel is anchored in Hollywood and in the pornography industry, which is conceived by men and financed by men, promoted by men and partaken of by men. The spirit of Jezebel is an issue more about men than women. It really is. Women are the victims of the spirit of Jezebel, but the whole narrative has been flipped in the last thirty to forty years. It is not how Jesus presented it. Well, okay, I am done with that point for now, though I will probably get back to it again.*

*Now we are going to read about these two churches, quickly, in an abbreviated overview. These are churches in the ancient world that are not there today. What had happened with both churches, Pergamos and Thyatira, they were honored by Jesus for persevering in persecution, especially Pergamos. He said, “You are standing strong in persecution!” Like, Wow! What a statement! Then to Thyatira, He said, “You are persevering in your service and your love and your outreach and care for people!”*

*Wow! But, to both churches, He said, “Yet…,” and He was talking to their eldership, their city-wide leadership team, the elders of those churches. He said, in effect, “You have a blind spot in your leadership. You do not take a stand against those leaders among you who are promoting immorality. You are really into being faithful in persecution, Pergamos. Thyatira, you are serving and serving. You will not quit. That is beautiful! But I want you to see the blind spot. I want you to take a stand, not just to the people in your congregation, but to the leaders in your midst who are promoting a false and distorted grace message that it is okay to be involved in immorality.”*

*They were saying, as it were, “Because, I mean, Jesus cares about our spirit. He does not care about our body. He cares about our spirit. You know, as long as we love Him with our spirit, our body does not really matter!”*

*And Jesus said, “I am troubled by that. That is not how I feel.” What you do with your body dynamically affects your spirit, and your mind, and your emotions. Our body is connected to our emotions, our thinking, and our human spirit, but they were separating it in a really erroneous way and then condoning these different activities.*

*Let’s do a really quick read of Revelation 2:12. “To the angel,” or the messenger, the human messenger, because the angel can be an angelic heavenly messenger or a human messenger. Both of them are indicated by the same exact Greek work in the New Testament. So in other words, to the primary senior pastor, though that is not a really good term and is not really what that means. It is more to the primary apostolic leader of that city. Jesus said, “Give that leader at Pergamos this message.” Verse 13, “Yes, you hold fast to My name. Tell them I like that I see it! Tell them they will not deny My faith. Even in the face of martyrdom they stand strong. That is amazing! However, they have a blind spot in their leadership because they have those false teachers there.” It was mostly leaders is who He was aiming at. I mean I am sure there were more people who were not leaders who were partaking of it. “They hold to the doctrine of Balaam,” and you are going to find in a moment that the doctrine of Balaam and the spirit of Jezebel are very similar. They are just different expressions of the same problem.*

*We never talk about or say, “That guy has got the spirit of Balaam!” We never use that term. We mostly focus on who has the spirit of Jezebel. Okay, Balaam taught this guy Balak, who was a Gentile king, how to get God’s people to compromise. He said, “You have people in your church, Pergamos, who are teaching God’s people how to compromise! That is not okay!”*

*And the way that Balaam taught King Balak, who was a Moabite or Gentile king—Moab is the modern-day nation of Jordan—and so it was a nation right next to Israel. Balaam the false prophet said, “Hey, if you want to get Israel in trouble, seduce them into immorality and idolatry, and then God will judge them. That is how you can defeat them.”*

*And this unbelieving Gentile king said, “Hey, thanks for the advice! So, really?”*

*Balaam said, “Then God will be their adversary!” So the king of Moab, which again is modern-day Jordan, right across the state line, got the women to go over to the camp of Israel, seduce the men into this big orgy—in modern-day language, a drunken feast—where they were just doing all this stuff and involving idolatry. Then God judged them, and Balaam told that king, “I told you it would work!”*

*The Lord said, as it were, “I do not like it because you have people in your own church there in Pergamos who are walking in that same spirit. They are promoting compromise, although they do not really think of it that way. They think of it as liberty and grace.” Verse 14, He said, “You have those who are holding the doctrine”—the word, “doctrine,” is the same word as, “teaching”—“They have the teachings of Balaam, that false prophet who taught Israel to worship idols and commit immorality.” I have a little bit more detail on this in the notes, though I am not sure we will get to them.*

*Now skip over to verse 18, “Now, tell Thyatira”—just down the road from Pergamos—“I know their perseverance.” The word, patience, often means perseverance. They would not quit, and when you read the whole passage, He meant in their service and in their love and reaching out to be helpful to people. He says in verse 20 which is the same as verse 14, “Tell Thyatira that they have the same blind spot that Pergamos has,” though a little different expression of it. Pergamos was more locked into the Balaam expression; Thyatira was more locked into the Jezebel expression, but it is a very similar reality when it is actually lived out.*

*He said, “You allow.” I like the New American Standard which says, “You tolerate” this woman Jezebel to teach and seduce the born-again community—because she was numbered among them and we will look at that more in a few minutes—“to commit immorality and idolatry!” The same as the doctrine of Balaam, very, very similar, though again there are some distinctions, but, bottom line, it comes down to the same thing.*

* 1. The acceleration of immorality and idolatry in the end times are a significant aspect of the enemy’s end-time strategy to attack the Spirit’s call for the Bride of Christ to love Jesus with all of her heart.

*The acceleration of immorality and idolatry in the end times, in the generation the Lord returns, is a significant aspect of Satan’s strategy. It worked in the old days in the early church, and he is going to unleash his strategy of immorality and covetousness connected to idolatry, the Antichrist worship system, and the mark-of-the-Beast economics. He is going to try to stop the first commandment, and He is coming after the end-time Church, but the end-time Church is going to prevail.*

* 1. This message is important today as immorality accelerates in context to internet pornography, etc.

*This message is so important. I am only mentioning the immorality now, and we all know that the immorality is not good, but the internet pornography is about to explode with virtual reality in the next ten, twenty, thirty years if the Lord tarries. Where state-of-the-art virtual reality is today and where it will be in ten years is just astounding, and then augmented reality…some of you know the difference between the two. Maybe many of you do. And artificial intelligence with state-of-the-art robotics which has human dimensions and features. Where will immorality be in ten to twenty years? I mean, it is exploding now through technology. It is going to be so intense. Why do I say that? Not to scare people, but to alert people. Beloved, this is least amount of temptation of immorality that we will see between now and the Lord’s return. This is the softest version of pornography right now compared to what is going to happen in the decades ahead.*

*My point is: young people, old people, whoever people–go after the Lord’s heart in this right now. Do not say, “Well, you know, boys will be boys. It is not going to hurt anything.” It is going to intensify! This is the hour of the least intensity compared to what is coming. And so this is the hour to sign up for the program to figure out how this works. There are a number of different approaches to it. That is not my point tonight. My point tonight is that it is serious. It is serious, and in ten years from now it will be so much more intense than it is today. It will be almost incomparable. We will not even recognize it. It will be so much more horribly dynamic, and real, and everywhere.*

*And, it is really Satan’s attack against the first commandment. Satan is making a preemptive strike against the Spirit establishing the first commandment in first place in order to have a prepared Bride for the worthy Son. That is what he is doing. Idolatry has the same issues; the great Harlot Babylon in Revelation 17 and 18 has immorality and idolatry. They are the primary points of temptation and power. It is the same as right here in Revelation 2.*

* 1. Many temples in Asia Minor were dedicated to worshipping the emperor and various Greek gods. There were many temple prostitutes associated with each temple, promoting immorality in their idolatrous feasts. Pergamos was a center of emperor worship in Asia. Thyatira had many “trade unions”—all their employees were required to attend various idolatrous feasts which included drunkenness and immorality. Refusal to participate would lead to losing one’s job.
	2. Jesus addressed three groups—believers who held fast to His name, those who embraced the false doctrine of Balaam, and the leaders who refused to correct those who promoted these teachings.

12“And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, ‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword… 14“But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before…Israel to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit sexual immorality…16Repent or else I will come you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.”’” (Rev. 2:12-16)

*Let’s go into a little bit more detail. Let’s look at Pergamos. I want you to notice that there are three groups Jesus identifies here in Pergamos. First, He is going to talk about the believers who held fast in the face of persecution. They did not cave in. He talks to them. Second, He is going to talk to those who embrace the doctrines of Balaam or the teachings of Balaam. Then, third, this is who He is really aiming at: the leaders, the good leaders, who tolerated and let the doctrines or teachings of Balaam continue. He looked at these leaders and said, as it were, “What are you doing? You are good guys! You love Me! Why are you so captivated over there? You are not even looking at this! I want you”—He is talking to the good leaders of Pergamos—“I want you to address this issue. Tenderly, not in anger or harshly, and with a spirit of mercy, but please address this.” Well, not “please.” The Lord would say, “Just do it!”*

*He says in verse 14, “I have this against you: there are those among you”—now He is talking about some of the secondary leaders, not the primary, main apostolic leaders of that church—“who hold, or promote, or believe the teaching of Balaam.” Now, Balaam—I went through this already—taught King Balak the Gentile king to put a stumbling block before Israel to embrace idolatry and sexual immorality. He says in verse 16, “Elders of Pergamos, repent! Or, I am coming to you and the people swept into this error, and I am going to fight against them with the sword of My mouth!” A lot of folks do not have a grid for the New Testament Jesus having a sword, something called the “sword of My mouth.”*

*There were many temples all through Asia Minor, which is again modern-day Turkey, and throughout the Roman Empire. They were dedicated to emperor worship. Like, they worshiped Augustus the emperor. He knew he was not God—I am quite sure he did not think that. Surely he knew—However, the emperor worship was much more than just emperor ego; it was actually a state security. It had an element of that, because if you would say yes to the emperor publicly, then the chances were slim of being infiltrated by a foreign doctrine, or a foreign army or people who would not be loyal to the emperor, because they could see it week after week: “Oh! You are not bowing to the Emperor! Who are you? Where did you come from? What do you believe?”*

*Now, these folks from what they called the sect of the Nazarenes had another king, and they thought “Wait! No, no, you bow down and call the Emperor, ‘God.’ So you do that and engage in this immorality. If you will not, there is only one reason and that is because you are loyal to someone else, and we do not like that!” It really was as much a state security function as it was the ego of the emperor and demons and ten other things. I am sure it is all combined together.*

*Listen: in verse 16, He is talking to the leaders of Pergamos and the people entrenched in the error. “Leaders, I want you to repent of this. I do not want you to say, ‘Well, we will get to it.’ No, no! I want you to repent of ignoring this! It is damaging My people.”*

*In these idolatrous feasts there were many temple prostitutes that were involved. The feasts were like drunken orgies, and they would worship these gods. I think most of the people, or many of them did not even believe that there were gods back there. They were just doing it. Some did, and I am just guessing and it is just my opinion, but they had to because if you did not do that then you were considered a criminal of the state and you would lose your job because they looked at you as: “You are not loyal to our state security and prosperity. Why aren’t you buying into the larger story here?”*

*“Well, because of Jesus, I cannot do the immorality thing, and I cannot bow down…”*

*“Hey! Hey, hey, hey, who is this Jesus guy? No, you better be loyal to us or you are in trouble!”*

*And literally everyone in the trade unions had to go to those feasts, and if they didn’t go to them, they were declaring, “My loyalty is somewhere else.” And that was very suspicious. That is the “mark of the Beast” sort of thing that is coming in the days to come. “My loyalty is with another King. I am not buying into the state program of prosperity, unity, and everybody in one direction.”*

*It will be very, very similar to the same reality. And Jesus said, “Don’t you dare buy into that, even if you lose your life. You be loyal to Me, and it will be worth it when you are loyal to Me.” And so this was a very, very important issue.*

* 1. John made references to a sword proceeding from Jesus’ mouth (Rev. 1:16; 2:12, 16; 19:15, 21). This sword speaks of Jesus “fighting against sin” in two different ways—sin in the Church (2:16) and sin in the nations under the Antichrist (19:15, 21) in persecuting His people (Rev. 19:2).

16Repent or…I will come…[to] fight against them with the sword of My mouth. (Rev. 2:16)

*Now I want to pause for a second here. I want you to notice something before we go on in the passage. John made reference to this phrase or this idea of a sword coming out of Jesus’ mouth. That is a little bit of a surprising idea. It is like, “Okay, a sword coming out of His mouth,” but a metal sword did not come out of His mouth. That is not what He is talking about. He is talking about the power of the sword released by the commands of His mouth. Meaning, He had power like a sword to confront immorality and idolatry. That is what He is talking about here. However, when you read the five references in the Book of Revelation to the “sword coming out of His mouth,” at first you think, “What is that?” Again, it is not a metal sword coming out of His mouth. It is a sword being released as in the power of God released by the commands of Jesus’ words. He has authority to release it.*

*You will find out that the sword of His mouth has two very different expressions in the Book of Revelation. Number one, the sword comes against persistent sin in the Church. That is redemptive because this is the Lord fighting for them. He is fighting them to win them to love. It is redemptive. It is so they can recover and can wake up to say, “Wow, what was I doing?”*

15Out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike nations… (Rev. 19:15)

*However, we also find, in Revelation 19, that the sword out of His mouth strikes nations. These are the Antichrist nations and kings. This is not a redemptive judgment. This is a punitive judgment; this is punishment.*

*So when the sword comes out of His mouth against believers, it is redemptive. It is His discipline. He is trying to get their attention to wake them up because He loves them. When the sword comes out of His mouth at the end of the age against the Antichrist and those hostile nations, it is punitive. One is redemptive, and one is punitive.*

* 1. Jesus uses the “sword of His Word” in a progressive way against believers who persist in compromise. First, He convicts them of compromise (Jn. 16:8). Next, the Lord often uses the sword of His Word through the lips of others. Then, He uses pressure in circumstances to “wake them up.”

12For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit… (Heb. 4:12)

*The “sword of His mouth,” or the “sword of His word” against the Church: Here it is actually for the Church. It is against whatever areas where the Church is steadfastly in persistent agreement with darkness. I am talking about immorality, and not just every single thing you can imagine. He says, “Where the Church is in agreement with darkness on immorality and idolatry”—it is not limited to that but this is the main point here, He says—“My sword is coming after My own people to free them. My sword is to break the bonds, the ropes, that tie them in, to free them. That is why I am coming after them.” At the end of the age it is going to be punitive.*

*Now when He uses the sword of His word, the sword of His mouth—this is my observation from over the years, and this is not precise and exact, and Jesus does not have to do it this way, but what I have here in this paragraph will give you a kind of broad perspective of how it works, though He does it differently sometimes. —Hebrews 4:12, “The word of God is living and powerful. It is like a sword. The word of God pierces between the division of soul and spirit.” The soul reveals our motives, even when we have justified our sin. We have justified our little immorality, but the Lord would say, “No, My Word will cut through that and tell you the truth about what is really in your heart.” Wow, okay, okay! Well, He shows us the good and the bad, not just the negative. The word of God even tells us, “You are a lover of God!” So the word of God is not just focused on the negative, but on the positive as well. And then the word of God releases power in our spirit as well. So the word of God reveals motives and releases power.*

*And so first Jesus sends the sword of His mouth to believers that hear the word: some of you are dabbling in an area of immorality, some are more than dabbling, and right now the word of the Lord, quoting right here in Revelation 2, this is the sword saying, “Come out now! Now! This is the time!”*

*You are thinking, “You know, I really should.”*

*“No! No! Come out now!”*

*It starts with conviction, either by you reading the Word yourself, or you watching a teaching video, or reading a blog, or something like that. You are hearing a message. Right now the sword is touching you, and this is the time to respond and say, “Yes! Yes, Lord! You know. Aghhhh! Yes! Yes! Good.” It starts with conviction.*

*Well, if repentance does not come with conviction, He gives you time. I don’t want to say, “gives you” as I don’t want to prophesy to you. He gives them time. He gives His people time. Let’s put it that way. Then He releases the word through a friend or an associate, and they knock on your door, and all of a sudden it is, “Oh no!”*

*He would say, “You know what? I can see what is happening,” and the Lord allows it to be uncovered. And now His word is in the mouth of others and it is uncomfortable.*

*“This is horrifying!”*

*He would say, “I wanted you to do it when just you heard the word and read it, but now it is in the mouth of somebody else.” And typically it is not fun when somebody else has been tipped off by the Lord and someone has been uncovered.*

*And then it goes up another notch, and that is when the sword releases pressure in the circumstances of believers. Pressure that is meant to wake them up so they will say yes to love. The Lord would say, “Well, I sent My word. You read it, you saw the blog, you heard the message, you heard the word, you sang it during worship, but that did not move you. I sent this guy and that person, and you got uncomfortable for a while, but it seems like the storm passed and they are not going to stick with it, so you think, ‘Phew, I dodged a bullet.’ No, not really because it is actually Me coming after you. It is My sword.” Then it is circumstances. It is pressure. He would say, “I am going to pressure your circumstances to wake you up because I am so committed to you! That is why I am going to do this!”*

* 1. ***Pressure***: The Lord raised up a “hedge of thorns” around Gomer—she represents His people in immorality, etc. so that eventually they would say, “It was better for me when I was with the Lord” (Hos. 2:6-7).

6“…I will hedge up your way with thorns, and wall her in, so that she [Gomer] cannot find her paths. 7She will chase her lovers, but not overtake them; yes, she will…not find them. Then she will say, ‘I will…return to my first husband, for it was better for me than now.’” (Hos. 2:6-7)

*The prophet Hosea gave such a powerful picture of this facet. It does not use the phrase, the sword of His mouth, but this is a facet of the sword of the Lord when the Lord’s power is released on circumstances to fight against sin. That is what I mean by the sword: it is the release of His power to fight against sin in our soul. And when we have not said yes to conviction, we have not said yes to the few folks that found out, and so now the Lord intervenes as Hosea said it so clearly.*

*The prophet Hosea was talking about his wife, Gomer, who was involved in harlotry, and the Lord said, “This is like My people Israel.” Hosea is torn. He said, “Yes, but I love her!” and the Lord said, “Yes, I love Israel, and this is the dilemma I am in, too. This is the pain!”*

*Here is what the Lord says to Gomer, this wife of the prophet, who is entrenched in harlotry, verse 6: The Lord said, “I will hedge up your way with thorns.”*

*Ugh! Can you imagine being hemmed in with thorns? Every move is an “Ouch! Oh! Agh! There is no movement!”*

*He said, “I am going to wall her in; I am going to take away some of her options. I am going to frustrate her circumstances.” That does not mean that all negative circumstances are about this. Sometimes it is just the enemy. Sometimes we have made bad decisions. Sometimes we are part of a fallen world. Not every trouble is this, so please do not go there. She was entrenched in immorality and would not stop, so the Lord said, “I am going to wall her in. I am going to put a hedge of thorns all around her.” Everywhere she moves, she is not going to find her path. She is looking for some liberty in this sin, but she is not going to find it. She is going to find frustration and pain at every single turn. He says, verse 7, “She is going to chase her lovers, but she is going to be frustrated. I am not going to let her overtake them. I am going to stop her.” There are a hundred different ways the Lord can stop His people, and it is different for everybody. “Yes, she will not find them. I love her so much I am going to hem her in,” the Lord said.*

*Look at the end of verse 7. I love this! Here is the end of the story: “Then she will say, hedged in by thorns, ‘I am going to return back to my husband, for it was better for me to be with the Lord’”*

*That is why the Lord is hemming in people who refuse to back away from sin. He would say, “I am going to hem you in, and you are not going to like it, but you will say at the end of the story ‘It is better for me that I am with the Lord.’” And they go back to their loyal love which they had originally.*

* 1. ***The doctrine of Balaam***: The doctrine of Balaam taught that believers could participate in the “parties” associated with temple feasts and their orgies. The false prophet Balaam was paid by King Balak to curse Israelites, but Balaam was unable to curse Israel (Num. 22-25). He knew God would judge Israel if they engaged in idolatry and immorality, so Balaam advised Balak to get the Moabite women to seduce the Israelite men to participate in feasts engaged in idolatry and immorality that would lead to God judging Israel (Num. 25)—24,000 Israelites died under God’s judgment.

*The doctrine of Balaam: I already mentioned that earlier so we will skip that. It is in the Book of Numbers. The whole story of Balaam is in Numbers 22 to 25. This is quite an unusual passage of scripture, where the prophet Balaam goes to the Gentile king, and the Gentile king says, using my terminology, “I will give you a couple million dollars if you will curse Israel.”*

*Balaam says, “Okay!” He tries to curse Israel and says, “Yeah, I…bless you!”*

*And the Gentile king says, “What! I am giving you millions of dollars!”*

*Balaam says, “Well, every time I talk, the Spirit comes upon me, and then I bless Israel!”*

*The king says, “You cannot bless Israel! I want my money back!”*

*Well, the king Balak increased his money, “I will give you two million more!”*

*Balaam said, “Okay, I…bless you Israel! Agh! The Spirit came upon me again!”*

*And that is when Balaam’s donkey had said, “Balaam, stop it!” Balaam talked back to him, yet did not even dawn on him that he was talking to his donkey!*

*Anyway, then Balaam said, “I cannot curse Israel. I try, but the Spirit comes on me, and then I bless them. But I know God, and if you get them into immorality God will judge them!”*

*“Get them into immorality? How?”*

*“Send your women over the state line or, you know, visit them. Seduce them, and they will yield. And then God will have to be true to His nature.”*

*So twenty-four-thousand of the Israeli soldiers died. And then the Gentile king said, “Wow, you are worth your weight in gold! We do not have to fight them now,” because God became their adversary. God was not their personal adversary in that sense, but He was protecting the nation of Israel so He had to do this.*

* 1. ***Immorality*** includes all sexual activity (physical, technological, etc.) outside of the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman.

*Some people ask, ‘What is immorality?’ Here is my definition of immorality, and I believe it is the biblical definition. It is a very brief and general one. I believe it involves all sexual activity, whether it is physical, technological, or whatever ways outside of the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman. That is the biblical definition of immorality, and today in the cultural wars the big debate is the homosexual or this and this and this, but let me say something. First, there is much more heterosexual immorality than there is homosexual immorality in this nation and in the Church. Much more heterosexual and I say, “I appreciate saying what God says about this, but I do not want to turn a blind eye to the other story because it is a far bigger storyline in terms of the mass millions of the Church who take immorality as ‘Well, you know, boys will be boys, and that is just how it works!’”*

* 1. ***Idolatry***: Covetousness is an expression of idolatry (Eph. 5:5; Col. 3:5)—because people put their confidence in money instead of God and make significant spiritual compromises for financial gain. Much idolatry throughout history was and at the end of the age is economically driven (Rev. 17-18).
	Those who participated their idolatrous feasts were worshipping demons (1 Cor. 10:20-21).

5Therefore put to death…fornication…evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. (Col. 3:5)

5For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. (Eph. 5:5)

*Idolatry is covetousness, and there are several verses where Paul the apostle said that: “Covetousness is idolatry or idolatry is covetousness.” That is because the people put their confidence in money instead of the Lord. That is number one.*

*Number two is people make significant spiritual compromises for financial gain, and those compromises defile their relationship with God. And many of those compromises were motivated by demon powers, and so that is why idolatry is called covetousness. Again, there will be much idolatry and immorality in the end times and the Harlot Babylon, Revelation 17 and 18.*

1. Jesus called them to repent and warned that He would fight them
	1. They were to repent of tolerating immorality. This required that they change areas of their speech, actions, and relationships—including some of the ways and places they spent their time and money.

16Repent, or else I will…fight against them with the sword of My mouth. (Rev. 2:16)

*Jesus said, verse 16, “Repent.” Here He is talking to the leaders to repent for tolerating the doctrine of Balaam, and He is talking to the people that hold to it. He really wants change: change in actions, speech, relationships, where we go, and the way that we spend time and money, the places we spend time and money. He wants it to change for real. Now, the Holy Spirit has to tell each person, but it is a question that you want to ask the Holy Spirit, “Am I spending time and money in places and in ways that are contributing to this spirit increasing in my life or this way in my heart?”*

* 1. ***I will fight against them***:Jesus releases the sword of His mouth against immorality in the church. He fights for us by fighting against those things in our life that are in agreement with darkness.
	Some of God’s judgments are *redemptive disciplines* to wake people up to receive more grace.

17The time has come for judgment [God’s discipline] to begin at the house of God… (1 Pet. 4:17)

*Jesus said, “I will fight against them.” He fights* ***for*** *us by fighting* ***against*** *the things which hold us in bondage, because you read that and think, “Fight against His own people?” He would say, “I am fighting against the area where they are in deep agreement with immorality and idolatry. So I am really fighting for them when I am fighting against this resolve which they will not stop. And they will not stop pulling other people into their influence. So I am fighting against them to free their own heart and to stop them from bringing others into it.”*

* 1. The Spirit is raising up those with the “spirit of Phinehas,” zealous to stand for Jesus in the midst of accelerating immorality and idolatry across the nations (Rev. 17-18).

11“Phinehas…turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous with
My zeal among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel…” (Num. 25:11)

*One of the great examples was back in Balaam’s day, the premier personal action back with Balaam, Numbers 25, at the end of the story. There was a priest named Phinehas, and he rose up with the zeal of God and took a stand against the immorality and idolatry. The Lord said, “Phinehas…turned back My judgement.” Yes, twenty-four thousand died, but there were many more who were going to die. “He took a stand and was zealous with My zeal!” Wow! “And therefore My judgment was restrained.”*

*I believe the Lord is raising up people today with the spirit of Phinehas. And I do not mean harsh, loud, or bold. They do not have to be that. I am talking about a resolve, not a personality type.*

*Some people think zealous means loud and “Rah, rah, rah, rah, ruh!” That is not what I am talking about. I mean zealous meaning resolved, unwavering. There is tenderness with the Lord’s zeal. God offers His mercy over and over. He does not want to break people’s lives. He wants them to disavow their involvement with those things. In a few minutes, we are going to pray for the spirit of Phinehas to rest upon us. Again, it is not a mean spirited, blazing-eyes type of caricature of a “holy prophet.” No, because Jesus is tenderness and mercy, but it is being unwavering. It is not backing away because of intimidation and all those kinds of things.*

1. Jesus’ Message to the Church of Thyatira (Rev. 2:18-29)
	1. Jesus affirmed Thyatira for their perseverance in ministering, yet they lacked zeal for moral purity.

18To…Thyatira write, “These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: 19I know your works, love, service…and your patience [perseverance] … 20I have a few things against you, because you allow [tolerate; NAS] that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. 21I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality …” (Rev. 2:18-21)

*Jesus’ message to the church of Thyatira, which was just down the road. He says in Revelation 2:18-29, “These things says…” and He describes Himself as the Son of God, with eyes like fire and feet like brass. Verse 19, He says, “I know your love.” Look at this. This is the only church that Jesus says, “I see the way you love; you love Me and you love people.” What? Who doesn’t want to be a part of the verse-19 church? “I know your works, your service. You have a servant spirit. You love God and you love people. You persevere,” meaning you will not back away from serving; motivated by love!”*

*I want to join that church! But, verse 20, He says “However, that does not alleviate the blind spot. Yes, you are loving people, you are loving Me, and you will not quit, but why is your leadership team allowing Jezebel to carry on this way? She calls herself a prophetess.”*

*I am assuming she had a track record of accurate prophecies. Whether they were accurate or not, I do not know, but her reputation was, “Hey, she really has the word of knowledge functioning. I mean this is real. I can prove it is real!”*

*A lot of folks have that operating and yet will say to Jesus on the last day, “Did I not prophesy in Your name and do miracles?” and He will say “I do not even know you.” So do not be too awestruck by somebody who has some revelation which is accurate. I mean there is more to the story than that.*

*And so they were wowed by what seemed like true accurate prophecies. Whether they were or not, I do not know. However, she was using her influence. She was known in the church. She was well enough known in the city among the Body of Christ that Jesus could identify her, so she was not out in the corner somewhere and nobody knew who she was. She was well known. He said, “Why are you letting her teach My servants that it is okay to be involved in immorality and idolatry like Balaam? It is a different version of it, but why are you doing that?”*

*“Well, I do not know. We are so busy loving and serving and so many good things are happening, and, yes, that is a nuisance.”*

*The Lord would say, “No, no, it is not a nuisance. It is troubling to Me. It is not okay.” Verse 21, He says this is shocking! “I gave her time to repent.”*

*Beloved, Jesus in His tenderness gives even Jezebel time to repent! I mean, when I read that, I thought, “Agh! We all have a chance! Everybody has a chance!”*

*The Lord would say, “I am fighting for her heart. I see the trouble she is causing. I want her heart, if she will come after Me.”*

* 1. ***Son of God***: Jesus is God. Thus He has the authority to define what love is and what it is not. He has the power to equip His people to withstand Jezebel. Jesus as our Creator is the source of love.

*He starts off in verse 18, and He declares that He is deity, that He is God. There are many points to this, but I only want to point out one or two. Here is a point I want to highlight, about the fact that He is saying, “I am the Son of God,” and we are saying, “Well, that is obvious. Why did you say that?” I think the point He is making is that He alone has the authority to define what love is and what love is not. In the cultural wars today there are twenty definitions to what love and grace is. Jesus said, in effect, “I am the only one qualified to say what true love is. All of the rhetoric and arguments are not God. I am the Creator, I am the Source of love, and not only that, I have the power to free you from that which hinders love. My Word is the true word.”*

*So when people say, “Well, how can a loving God…”*

*I say, “He became a man. He shed His blood on the cross. He rose from the dead! Tender mercy! He knows what love is way more than you do. You imagine that you would exalt your own opinion about love higher than His?”*

*“Well, that is old and archaic, old-fashioned tradition!”*

*“Ohhhhh? He is the Genesis 1 God who became a man. Just go easy with that, real easy!”*

*He not only has the power to define love, He has the power to free us from that which hinders love, and, in this case, it is immorality.*

* 1. ***Who has eyes like a flame of fire***: His eyes speak of His attentiveness to His people and to what they do. Fire symbolizes the impartation of holy love and the release of judgment. He releases either the “fire of grace” or the “fire of judgment,” depending on how we respond to Him.

*He said, “I have eyes like fire. I see everything! There is no wall My eyes cannot penetrate and see through. There is no hidden closet. I see everything! Nothing can escape My notice.” Hebrews 4:13 says, “No one is hidden from His sight. Everything is naked and bare to Him.” There is no hiding. No twisting the storyline. He sees everything. He would say, “My eyes are like fire.”*

*Fire has two implications when it is in God’s personality: the impartation of love or the fire of judgment. It is the fire of God that came on the Book of Acts in Acts 2. Tongues of fire empowered them in love. The disciples on the road to Emmaus in Luke 24, “When He spoke to us, did not our hearts burn within us?” His eyes: He is the Man with burning eyes. He imparts love and tenderizes or comes with the fire of judgment in different commentaries. You do not need to pick one over the other; it is both. And the way I say it is that He releases either the fire of grace to tenderize and liberate or the fire of judgment to stop, just to stop what we are doing, depending on how we respond to Him. He will give us time. However, He says, “My eyes can stop that which is hindering your spiritual growth too, just like the sword.*

* 1. ***His feet are like fine brass***: Brass is a symbol of judgment against sin. Jesus’ feet of bronze speak of His commitment as a mighty warrior to confront and triumph over persistent immorality. Jesus can “step in” to help His people come to victory or He can “step on” circumstances in their lives to wake them up to obey Him (Hos. 2:6-7)— He seeks to remove all that hinders love in His people.

*Then His feet are like brass. Brass is the symbol of judgment all throughout the Bible. In saying “His feet of bronze,” He is saying, “I am committed as a mighty warrior. I will confront, liberate, and triumph over everything that is getting in the way. All of that immorality–I promise you I will overcome it all. I will crush it all, and I will remove it from the earth. There is no history in that line of thought. Get out of it now. My feet are like brass!”*

*And so I like to say Jesus with His feet will either step* ***into*** *your life to liberate or He will step* ***on*** *your circumstances to be like a hedge of thorns to remove all of the options in order to give you no way out but to repent and say, “It is better for me now that I have been hedged in with thorns.” Step* ***in****—to liberate—He says “I am here to deliver you!” or step* ***on****—I am going to touch your circumstances and wake you up!”*

1. Jesus’ Correction to Thyatira
	1. Jesus highlighted a blind spot in their leadership and church (2:20). His correction is not rejection. They tolerated Jezebel by allowing her to continue instead of confronting her error and stopping her ministry. She taught a false “liberty in grace,” saying that attending idol feasts involving immorality was acceptable. Her disciples prided themselves on their “enlightened liberalism in grace.”

20“…I have a few things against you, because you allow [tolerate; NAS, ESV] that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols…” 21I gave her time to repent…” (Rev. 2:20-21)

*Jezebel taught what is often called liberty and grace —well, it is a biblical reality—but a false presentation of liberty and grace. She said, “Go into those feasts and involve yourself with the immorality and drunkenness of all of the parties. You are okay!”*

*And those people prided themselves on being enlightened with greater depths of liberty and grace. “Well, all you poor religious people, you do not see the liberty and grace that we have!”*

*Jesus said, as it were, “Don’t buy that story. Don’t you dare buy into that!” It is all over the internet, on the lips and in social media of people who even claim to love and be loyal to Jesus. This distorted grace message, it is all over.*

* + 1. The OT Jezebel was married to King Ahab (1 Kgs. 16:31). She financially supported 850 false prophets, killed God’s true prophets, and sought to kill Elijah (1 Kgs. 18:13, 19; 19:1-2). Her harlotries and occult practices were well known (2 Kgs. 9:22). Her name lived on as a byword for immorality and/or occult activity.

*There is an Old Testament Jezebel, and I have a few points about her here. That was about 900 BC.*

* + 1. The NT Jezebel acted like the OT Jezebel and may actually have deliberately taken her name in her brazen boldness to live in sin. She was a recognized leader in the church who claimed to be a prophetess. Thus, she had a reputation for accurate prophetic revelation.

*So about a thousand years later there is a New Testament Jezebel. However, it is not the same Jezebel. My guess is that the New Testament Jezebel deliberately took on the Old Testament Jezebel’s name. It was like she was brazenly saying, “I am not ashamed nor afraid of my teaching about immorality, that it does not touch your spirit. It just touches your body! I am not afraid to use it.” And so she takes that name on. That is my assumption; surely her mother and father did not name her Jezebel. If they did, she has a whole lot of father-wounds going on here which are way beyond what we are going to study tonight.*

* + 1. The *spirit of Jezebel* promotes immorality. As the OT Jezebel killed the prophets physically, so the spirit of Jezebel today kills the prophetic spirit with immorality.

*The spirit of Jezebel in the “New Testament expression” kills the prophets spiritually. It kills the prophetic spirit just like the Old Testament Jezebel killed the prophets. Well, the Old Testament Jezebel killed them physically. I am telling you that pornography, immorality, and lust will kill the spirit of prophecy in the Church. It is like, “Well, you can make all of the arguments you want about ‘liberty and grace’ and ‘Hey, there is a new way and Jesus died for us and He repented so I do not have to repent and there is no judgment!’” All of this crazy, non-biblical falsehood that is going throughout the Body of Christ, but it does not change the reality; it kills the spirit of prophecy.*

* 1. Jesus warned the church that He would kill her children—those who embraced her teaching—and would cast them into a sickbed and into tribulation—increased pressures on their circumstances.

22“Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. 23I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts…26He who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations. 27He shall rule them…” (Rev. 2:22-26)

*Now this really gets intense in verse 22. Jesus says, “I am going to cast her on a sickbed.” This is a teaching and a presentation of the New Testament Jesus that you just do not run into all that often, but it is real and it is here to stay. And it is not just the historic Jesus. It is the end-time Jesus, which is obviously exactly the same. He said, “Those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation.” He is not talking in this context about the Great Tribulation; this is not a “that” statement. He said, in effect, “I will cause pressure on their circumstances. I will wake them up so they say “Yes” to Me, so I can forgive them and deliver them. They have to repent.”*

*Now, is this amazing? If they repent, He frees them! He says, “I am only going to do this if they don’t repent!” That is phenomenal! Underline that in your Bible! “If they repent,” the Lord says, “I will forgive them. I will cover them. I will stand with them. I will give them a new beginning. I will give them a new commission, but they have to break their agreement with sin. It may take a while to get free from all of the residue, but if they will repent, I am with them!” Micah 7:18 says, “The Lord delights in mercy.” He would say, “I love giving you mercy! I want to cover you. I want to free you. I do not want to hurt you. I want your love and so do you want Mine. You just do not know that you want that kind of love because you are so deluded and weighed down and dulled, but I am going to wake you up!”*

*Then He says in verse 23, “I will kill her children with death.” Her “children” means her disciples in the church of Thyatira. The people who were buying into her teaching, those were her children, her spiritual children. He said, as it were, “I will kill them and I will kill them progressively, slowly, because I am giving them every chance. But I want the others to see that I am not okay with this.” Beloved, I believe that before the Lord returns there is going to be a wholesale cleansing of immorality in the end-time church, and it is going to be the Jesus with burning eyes of love that is behind it. He is saying, “I am coming after your heart! I love you. You have a better destiny than this!”*

*And then look at verse 26. He promises them—and He is talking to the people ensnared in immorality and the leaders who are condoning it or tolerating it—He says, “If you will overcome, if you will repent, you will rule the nations!” Like, how could He promise Jezebel’s disciples, with x-amount of history in immorality and deception, to have power over the nations? This is remarkable! He says, “That is how committed I am, but I want you leaders to stop tolerating it, and I want those captured in this vice and this deception to break your agreement with it, and My Spirit will help you get free.”*

* 1. Believers sometimes become sick and even die under God’s discipline on immorality. God’s discipline sometimes includes Satan being permitted to destroy their flesh or strike them with sickness in order to wake them up so that they are saved now the last day (1 Cor. 5:5; 11:32). Jesus is the ultimate healer who desires to heal the heart and body of His people as He restores their love.

1It is reported that there is sexual immorality among you…5deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh [sickness] that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord…
(1 Cor. 5:1-5)

*I just have to end with this. A lot of believers do not know that this is in the Bible. They have figured out some fancy footwork theologically, so they deleted all of this, but, beloved, this will not be deleted by anybody. God’s word is infallible, and it is authoritative. God’s word makes it clear that in His discipline, in His love—I am not talking about punishment. I am talking about His redemptive discipline—He said, “I am after your heart.” He will allow Satan to touch their body in order to wake them up.*

*Look at 1 Corinthians 5. You can read the whole chapter on your own. It says, “It has been reported that there is immorality among you. When you gather together,” verse 5, “deliver such a one over to Satan for the destruction of his flesh,” so his body becomes sick. With a sick body he loses a lot of options and a lot of motivation for his immorality. He is saying “Agh! Why!” so that his spirit is saved in the day of the Lord; that is the Lord’s tenderness towards him.*

*Again, a lot of folks say, “Well, Paul did not understand the message of grace.” Well, he really did, and he was quite good at it.*

30For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep [died]. 31If we…judge ourselves, we would not be judged. 32But when we are judged, we are chastened [disciplined]
by the Lord, that we may not be condemned [go to hell] with the world. (1 Cor. 11:30-32)

*Look at 1 Corinthians 11, “For this reason” going to the communion table while living in persistent sin—I am not talking about immaturity. I am talking about persistently, you will not quit, you will not back away and you will not call it sin—He says, “For this reason many of you are weak, many of you are sick, and many of you are dead.” Verse 31, “If we judge ourselves, we will not be judged.” We are disciplined in a redemptive way by the Lord. But, verse 32, “When we are judged, we are disciplined by God”—he is saying that is a Father who delights in you.. Proverbs 3:12 says that “God delights in those He disciplines. That is why He disciplines them.” Why? So they will not end up condemned, so they will not end up in hell like the people in the world.*

*And again, this is the Jesus of love. This is the “New Testament grace” Jesus. Do not let anybody steal this out of your heart and out of your mouth, because I am telling you there is an explosion of immorality and there is an outpouring of the Spirit that is going to have signs and wonders and there is also going to be an invasive discipline of the Lord to cleanse His Church so that Jesus returns for a prepared Bride.*

*Amen and amen! Let’s stand before the Lord.*

*Lord, here we are. Here we are. Lord, I am asking You, Jesus with the eyes of fire, I am asking that Your eyes of fire would tenderize us in love. I ask that Your mouth like a sword would cut the chains that bind us. Come and free us. Feet like brass, step in and deliver us rather than step on our circumstance to wake us up.*

*Tonight the Lord is talking to a number of people undoubtedly, though I do not know that by the Spirit in a specific way, but it is just how it is in the Body of Christ. This issue is so prevalent today. The Lord says, “I am yours. You are Mine. I have a future for you.”*

*I want to pray—rather than for that issue because we can do that every single meeting for many years and never, ever get to the end of it, though I do not mind doing all of the time. However I want to pray—for the spirit of Phinehas, for God to raise up ten-year-olds and eighty-year-olds with the Spirit of zeal, who will take a stand like Phinehas did.*

*And the Lord would say, “You are going to change history. You are going to stop My disciplines and My judgments on My people if you will speak out and take a stand so others will be corrected by your words.”*

*Again, not harsh, not intrusive, not “Hey, I have the word and I am coming after you!” Not any mean-spirited stuff. I am talking about tenderness, going to them in private and saying, “Hey, the Lord has a better way for you. This is not who you are! This is not what you were made for!” I am talking about a tender approach to this.*

*Jesus! God, we ask for the spirit of Phinehas, Numbers 25, new songs, new discipleship, and new authority!*