Podcast Episode Notes
Season 3 Episode 2 Operating in the Opposite Spirit

In our last episode, we discussed being offended and how we shouldn't "pick up offenses." We decided to dig a little deeper into that because so much of the world right now is engaged in expressing strong opinions, battling to be right, and there almost seems to be an industry around being offended! This episode, we discuss what it means to operate in the opposite spirit. It's something Jesus did so we should too.

Jesus' life was full of opposites: a King born in a manger, dies the death of a common criminal, light vs darkness, the Way vs wandering, truth vs lies, life vs death

"But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them."
– Luke 6:27-31

Jesus taught us:
a. Whoever wants to be great in the Kingdom, must become the greatest servant
b. Forgive those who wound you
c. Bless those who persecute you
d. You are blessed when you are insulted and slandered in my Name
e. What is impossible in the eyes of people is possible in the eyes of God
f. Jesus did not come to be served, but to give His life as a ransom for many

Thinking as a disciple of Jesus with a Kingdom viewpoint:
a. The world loves money and uses people; we are to use money and love people.
b. The world uses power for self; we use power to serve the good of others.
c. The world tells us to spend your life finding happiness; we lay down – or lose - our lives for the good of God's Kingdom and those around us.
d. The world says leadership is power, domination and control; we recognize true leadership is serving others.
e. The world puffs itself up in pride; we are to walk in humility, honoring others.
f. The world resents and reacts with revenge; we forgive and bless over and over.

What does it mean to operate in the opposite spirit? A purposeful response with the intent of impacting the spiritual atmosphere around you.
a. It is acting in the opposite way that others are wrongly acting toward us.
b. Operating in an opposite spirit can be a game changer – spiritually altering an environment, allowing a person or circumstance to be transformed.
c. We must properly diagnose what is spiritually going on, then respond in the opposite spirit. Walking in the Spirit vs walking in the flesh (Galatians 5:16-25).
d. "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." – Proverbs 15:1

What's happening in the spiritual atmosphere?
"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm." - Ephesians 6:12-13
-there is an unseen realm, the spiritual world
-our natural tendency is to react in the flesh: words for words, hurt for hurt, anger responded to with more anger, revenge for a wrong committed, broken relationships.
-it is important that we don't only see these things through our natural eyes, but also through spiritual lenses!
Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." – 1 John 4:4
"For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ…" – 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

What is happening spiritually when we engage in operating in the opposite spirit?
a. You are expressing the heart of Jesus in the situation
i. He desires for good to triumph over evil, people to be free
b. You are allowing the Holy Spirit to move through your life
i. Instead of responding in the flesh, you are following the lead of the Spirit
c. You are advancing God's Kingdom
i. You are exercising faith, and unleashing Heaven on our situation
d. You are neutralizing the enemy and transforming the spiritual atmosphere
i. Instead taking the enemy's bait – you hit him with a surprise attack!
ii. "Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you." - Luke 10:19
iii. "…The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil." - 1 John 3:8

Be spiritually aware of your current situation:
-Opposite of Greed (or Lack) is Generosity
-Opposite of Pride is Humility
-Opposite of Fear is Love and Obedience
-Opposite of Frustration is Kindness
-Opposite of Discouragement is Hope
-Opposite of Anger is Joy and Peace
-Opposite of Bitterness is Forgiveness
-Opposite of Selfishness is Servanthood

You need to guard your heart from season 1!

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