

## **The Trap of Perverted Ambition - May 2012 Webcast**

### **Matthew 20:20-28**

**Objective:** The message is designed by the Spirit of God to put leadership in a faith state of mind to achieve and receive God's best far beyond what the flesh can produce. I am teaching this with the hope that you will carefully evaluate your life and motive behind those things you are doing in ministry.

**Introduction:** While in prayer the spirit of the Lord began to talk to me about a satanic trap many spiritual leaders are falling into as they attempt to achieve success. The success driven kingdom culture has caused leaders to refine the parameters of success and the means by which it is acquired. Like never before the God given ambition that keeps us continuously passionate about the desires of the kingdom have been replaced by a perverted ambition to succeed by any means necessary. At the root of this sell out generation of spiritual leaders is a pride disposition which courts relationship, self promotes and degrades others. There is a way that seemeth right to man but the end thereof are the ways of death.

#### **I. The Perspective On The Potential Of Ambition Phil. 3:14**

*\* Although the word ambition is usually referred to in a negative sense; in reality it is a term that has a meaning of a passionate pursuit of status, distinction, power, honor, fame or wealth. It takes on its negative or positive role when the methodology for the pursuit is examined.*

##### **A. The Purposed Ambition ... God Centered Drive Matt.6:33**

*\* There is a driving nature in man to please God and respect the righteous pursuit of the kingdom of God. This righteous pursuit defines the ambition to fulfill the purposes of God for ones life.*

1. Kingdom Focused
2. Contentment Based
3. Pleases God

##### **B. The Perverted Ambition ... Self Centered Drive**

*\* Since this purposed drive for the kingdom of God is critical to success it is no wonder that Satan attempts to corrupt ambition for kingdom success.*

1. Spawns inappropriate, often despicable behavior that knows no boundaries
2. Occurs when there is a loss of confidence in God's plan for success ... you do it!!
3. You become a user discarding what you feel you no longer need without regard
  - a. Memberships
  - b. Mentors
  - c. Marriage
  - d. Morals

##### **C. The Profiles Of Ambition**

Jesus. Paul. Absoloam . Gehazi. The Prodigal. James & John. Adonijah.

#### **II. The Pitfalls Of The Perversion Of Ambition 2Cor.2:11... Let's Not Be Duped**

*\* Unfortunately Satan has been most successful in derailing leaders through unbridled ambition than any other trap because of the blinding self vindicating nature it spawns.*

##### **A. The Corruption Of Character ...The Misbehavior Redefines Who You Are**

*\* Cheating looks like the fast track to success but in reality it disqualifies you in the sight of God and you continue to get what your flesh and manipulation can produce.*

1. You develop a flawed definition of greatness and success ...worldly influenced
2. Anxiety over seemly once in a lifetime opportunity passing you by ...compromise
3. You pursue relationships you believe will promote you ...leads to being pimped
4. You attempt to open doors for your ministry by any means necessary ...asking
5. You develop an unwarranted sense of entitlement ...easily offended (envy)
6. You lose respect for what belongs to others ... use deception to build relationship
  - a. Relationship Pimps ...convincing others to do dirty things for your benefit
  - b. Revelation Pirates ...stealing material putting it in print taking full credit
  - c. Rhetorical Players ...skilled persuasive use of words to cover up your sin

d. Religious Politician...brown nosing for acceptance and opportunity

7. Being seen upfront with the prestigious is extremely important ...by any means

**B. The Catastrophic Consequences - What You Compromise To Keep, You Eventually Lose**

\* *It is no wonder that Perverted Ambition leave a trail of devastation because it is an attitude rooted in pride and scripture is clear of pride's end.*

1. History Testifies of Catastrophic Consequences for the Ambitious

a. Alexander the Great ...died at 30 in debauchery

b. Hannibal the Great ...committed suicide

c. Napoleon ...died banished from his country

2. Scripture Testifies of Catastrophic Consequences for the Ambitious

a. Cain the ambitious son of Adam murders his brother and is banished

b. Gehazi the servant of Elisha conned Naaman and was cursed with leprosy

c. Absoloam, David's son, attempted to steal the throne died hanging from a tree

d. Adonijah tried to steal the throne from Solomon ...was killed for his murderous plot

e. The Prodigal ends up in the hog pen after wasting his inheritance on ambitions

**III. The Purifying Of Problematic Ambition Phil.4:11**

\* *The possibility of recovering from perverted ambition is strengthened as we see two of the ambitious disciples of Jesus get a grip on themselves, refocus and live out their days pleasing God. You can stay connected in your set place when ambition is bridled!*

**A. The Revelation Of Corruption Cycle**

1. The Drifting Moment ...when you entertain doubt about God's plan exploring options

2. The Derailment Moment ...the time when you act on other compromising options

3. The Detachment Moment ...the abandonment of righteous convictions ...by any means

4. The Deliberation Moment ...point in time of spiritual conviction ...come to yourself

5. The Deliverance Moment ...when you repent and decide to trust God's plan

6. The Delight Moment ...place of confidence in trusting God

**B. The Regiment Of Correction Convictions**

1. Consideration Dynamics ...just think about it

2. Consecration of Desires ...get back to just pleasing God ...repentance

3. Conscious Discipline ...establish never agains and from now ons

4. Care for the Downtrodden ...understanding the vaule of serving without an agenda

5. Contentment Delights ...I'm who I am by the grace of God ...fully accepted by God

**Conclusion:** Prayer....