

Lesson 11

ATTACKS ON LEADERS

I. **Attacks On Men In The Ministry**

- A. Definition: All professions involve stress, but in the ministry men (and women) are under direct attack from the world, flesh and the devil.
- B. Direct Attacks:
 - 1. Negative attitudes towards the pastor.
 - 2. Personality conflicts with the pastor.
 - 3. Sexual lusts towards the opposite sex.
 - 4. Power struggles with church leadership.
 - 5. Conflicts in the home between husband/wife/children.
 - 6. Divisions within the local church.
 - 7. Physical health of the pastor.
 - 8. Attempts to remove the pastor.
 - 9. Discouragement over the ministry.
 - 10. Depression from total discouragement.
 - 11. Temptation to compromise truth to please people.
- C. Subtle Attacks
 - 1. An unhealthy concern about money.
 - 2. An unhealthy desire to be successful.
 - 3. An unhealthy desire to be praised by men.
 - 4. An unhealthy view of one's importance which results in pride.
 - 5. An unhealthy view of being busy.
 - 6. An unhealthy view that thinks one's example is not as valuable as what one says.
 - 7. An unhealthy view of the church where expectations are too high and one is crushed by betrayals.
 - 8. An unhealthy view of work whereby one becomes lazy and indifferent.
 - 9. An unhealthy understanding of God's plan whereby one becomes angry with God when things don't go as planned.
 - 10. An unhealthy view of knowledge whereby one becomes unteachable with no desire to learn.

II. **Conflicts With People**

- A. **Personality Conflicts Within the Church**
 - 1. Conflicts with the Congregation
 - 2. Conflicts with the Staff
 - 3. Conflicts within the Leadership (Elders, Deacons)
 - 4. Conflicts with Other Pastors
- B. **How to Settle Conflicts**
 - 1. There are Three Opportunities in Conflict (1 Cor. 10:31; 11:1)
 - a. The opportunity to glorify God.
 - b. The opportunity to serve others.
 - c. The opportunity to be like Christ.
 - 2. The Need for Confession (Prov. 28:13; Matt. 7:3-5)
 - a. Address all the parties involved.
 - b. Avoid words like "if" or "but" or "maybe."
 - c. Admit specifically to the accusation or sin.
 - d. Apologize with humility to the person wronged.

- e. Accept all the consequences of your actions.
 - f. Alter your behavior immediately.
 - g. Ask the offended party for forgiveness.
3. The Basic Steps for Resolving Conflict (Prov. 19:11; Matt. 5:23-24; 18:15-20).
- a. Overlook minor offenses in the other person.
 - b. Talk to the person in private.
 - c. If not satisfied with the person's response, then go a second time, taking one to two others.
 - d. If there is still no satisfaction with the response, then tell it to the whole church.
 - e. If there is still no satisfactory response, then treat the person as an unbeliever.
4. The Results of Forgiveness (1 Cor. 13:5; Eph. 4:32).
- a. I will not think about the incident.
 - b. I will not bring the incident up and use it against the person who has been forgiven.
 - c. I will not talk to others about the incident.
 - d. I will not allow this incident to stand between the other person and me nor will I let it hinder our relationship.
5. The Proper Way to Negotiate (Phil. 2:3-4; Eccl. 9:16).
- a. Prepare by studying all aspects of the situation.
 - b. Always positively affirm your relationship with the other person.
 - c. Understand the other person's interests by listening very carefully.
 - d. Try always to search for creative solutions to the problem.
 - e. Evaluate all the options objectively and reasonably.