

NLC Staff Mtg.
Pastoring People Well...
Known, Loved & Challenged Teaching
February 5th, 2019

- * People need 3 things in order to Grow Spiritually:
 - Without all 3, we WILL NOT Grow.

3 Ways Someone is Pastored Well:

- 1. Known.** – To do life together, up close & personal...
 - JESUS & THE DISCIPLES – He knew them... intimacy!
 - The key to this is Vulnerability...

John 10:14-15 “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.”

- 2. Loved.** – Understand God’s Unconditional Love, Embody His Love, Show it Tangibly.

Matthew 22:39 “Love your neighbor as yourself...”

- 3. Challenged.** – Encouraging someone beyond their current comfort level.

Hebrews 3:12-14 “See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. ¹³ But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. ¹⁴ We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end.”

? What happens when only 2 of the 3 are Present?

“When someone is Known & Challenged, but NOT Loved...”

1. They take on a Legalistic Spirit. (Known & Challenged, but NOT Loved)

A. People who are Known & Challenged take on a very Works-Oriented mentality to their relationship with the Church (what they do) & their relationship to the Lord. (who they are)

- These people are often tough, duty-filled, even to the point of being militant.

B. They can become Rigid very quickly.

- This is how we do it here, it works, & I don't want to talk about it again.
- It's their way or the highway, b/c their way is the best way.

C. These people feel valued because of their efforts.

- “I'm loved b/c I produce...”
- They are motivated by works & approval.
- Everything they do is ultimately motivated by Fear, not love.

D. The Measure of a Good Sunday is, “Did we get everything done in order & without any hiccups?”

- Don't worry about the people, did we check all the boxes?

E. These people are Dangerous b/c they can treat other people as tools to achieve a goal rather than the reason we are here.

John 12:5 “Why wasn’t this perfume sold and money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages...” – Judas

F. He didn’t care about the woman pouring it on Jesus’ feet, or her worship, or the poor, he simply saw the perfume as a means to an end.
- Ultimately, his end. (He was a thief.)

“When someone is Loved & Challenged, but NOT Known...”

2. They take on a Discouraged Spirit. (Loved & Challenged, but NOT Known)

A. People who are loved & challenged but not known are Loyal to the core.

B. However, they often don’t feel seen or truly believe that what they do really matters.

- IOW, they feel like a Cog in the Wheel.
- They feel easily replaceable.

C. Consequently, they are easily discouraged b/c if I’m replaceable then I must not mean much to anybody.

D. The result is Low Motivation & Disappearance.
- IOW, they just fall off & stop showing up.

“When someone is known & loved, but not Challenged...”

3. They Take on an Offended Spirit. (Known & Loved, but NOT Challenged)

A. The “Feel” believed in & encouraged all the time.

- They are coddled & protected from any sort of stretching.

B. They start to think that discipleship is “Hanging out” “Getting Coffee” “Just Reading Books.”

C. They become Stunted in their growth b/c they are not being challenged or stretched.

- They come to believe that discomfort is a sign that something is wrong.

- They see discomfort as bad & something to be avoided at all costs.

D. What ends up happening is 2 things:

1) They get challenged from someone “beneath” them.

- B/c they have inadequacies they aren't dealing with, someone is inevitably going to challenge them

- & the minute they do, they feel threatened & angry & defensive.

2) They are challenged in an area from their leader & they are instantly offended!

- They feel as though we have changed the game on them.

- Now we're the bad guy b/c “we're not being fair or kind or nice...”

- JESUS ILL - Jesus feeds 5000... walks on water, then starts to Challenge the disciples...

John 6:60 “On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?” Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you?”

v. 62-63 “Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life.

v. 64 “Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.”

v. 66 “From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.”

**E. *“Lord, we were good for the 5,000 & feeding people & having coffee, & we loved it when you came to us when we were in need...
- But now you’re saying stuff that isn’t fun or easy & I’m not sure we’re in for that anymore!!!”***

F. MIP: If we are not willing to be challenged, then we aren’t going to grow into all that God wants for us to become!

What does each one need from us?

1. Legalistic: They need affirmed that what they do is NOT more important than who they are.

- They are Loved b/c of who they are, not b/c of anything they do.

2. Discouraged: They need affirmed that they are seen & that who they are matters to what is happening.

3. Offended: They need taught that stretching and challenge is a necessary part of discipleship & that their value, worth & status aren't in question when they are being challenged.