

Fighting The Good Fight of Faith –

Part 4: Enemies of Faith: Dealing With Manipulation

The Spirit of Manipulation’s ultimate desire is ungodly control

- ❖ This spirit was present before Jezebel but she symbolizes it’s operation
 - Rev. 2:20: Although Jezebel died in 2 Kings, the spirit of Jezebel was still operating in Thyatira and our churches today
 - As Jezebel opposed Elijah (1 Kgs. 19:2), the same spirit operated through Herodias and opposed John The Baptist (Mark 6)

Who was Jezebel?

- ❖ Was the daughter of Ethbaal, the king and high priest of the Baal worshipping Sidonians
- ❖ Married to Ahab, king of Israel, in violation of the Word of God – Deut. 7:3-4
- ❖ *“Baal worship was closely associated with obsessive sensuality and often involved sex acts. Jezebel, as a daughter of this perverse kingdom, was raised in an atmosphere where sex was a path to power and influence.” Jon Hamilton*

You Can Not Appease This Spirit

- ❖ Once Ahab married this ungodly woman, Deut. 7:4 began to be fulfilled early. This is why the church should not tolerate this spirit when it recognizes it in operation. 1 Kings 16:30-34
 - Turns people from worshipping God to worshipping idols
 - Ahab built a temple to Baal and furnished it with an altar
 - Dancing and kissing the idol were parts of its worship – 1 Kgs. 19:18
 - Sets in the atmosphere the spirit of disobedience in others – vs. 34 (Joshua 6:26)
- ❖ Note the spirit of jezebel does the same things in the Church of Thyratira – Rev. 2:20
- ❖ Prostitution was rampant in the worship of these idols as they worked in and “serviced” worshippers
- ❖ This idol worship caused over 10 million Israelites to disobey God and left only 7,000 faithful.

Signs of Jezebel Spirit

- ❖ Have to be in control
 - in Hebrew, Jezebel literally means “without cohabitation”
- ❖ Like to appear close to leaders and influence them to accomplish her goals and control her environment 1 Kgs. 21:8-9
- ❖ Puts pleasure before responsibility (lustful)
 - doesn’t care who is hurt in order to accomplish goals
- ❖ Appears religious but void of submission and true devotion to God
- ❖ Willing to compromise the Word of God when selfish interests are not benefited
- ❖ Practices seduction – 1 Tim. 4:1; Mark 13:22; 1 John 2:26-27
- ❖ Likes to operate in the ministry – Rev. 2:20
 - As such, tries to buck authority and cause others to rebel against authority
- ❖ Refuses to repent or admit fault – Rev. 2:21

How To Combat these ungodly spirits

- ❖ Eliminate the spirit of Ahab
 - Insecure, Unfocused, Passive – Phil. 1:20
- ❖ True spiritual authority
 - Her attack on Elijah was to get the man of God not to exercise his biblical authority
 - Practice submission to authority – Heb 13:17; Luke 22:31-32J; Eze. 33:1-6
- ❖ Focusing atmosphere on worshipping God and not man

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“Sidonians” was another name for the Phoenicians, that seafaring people on the Mediterranean coast who occupied the great cities of Tyre and Sidon. With the ever-present menace of Syria and the growing threat of Assyria, Ahab decided that he needed an alliance with this neighboring nation, so he made a treaty with the king of Phoenicia and sealed it by marrying his daughter. That is how Jezebel happened to move to Samaria, the capital of Israel, and there is only one way to describe it — a whirlwind hit Israel. (My Way – The Story of Ahab and Jezebel by Richard L. Strauss)

The Roots of Manipulation

- ❖ Perceived inner weakness and lack of faith in God
 - When you are not sure of who you are in Christ and trust Him to guide your life, you begin to resort to plan b-z instead of God’s Plan A.
 - Prov. 3:5-6; Gen. 15:1-3, 16:1-6
 - We must be built up so we are not prone to manipulation – Jude 1:18-25
- ❖ Unchecked, undisciplined lives
 - Although we may laugh at it, but spoiling children leads to manipulative children
Pro. 13:24; Pro. 22:15; Pro. 22:6
 - Lack of discipline in Christian living – 1 Cor. 9:27
- ❖ Unclosed doors to your heart – Prov. 4:23-27; Mat. 26:41; John 8:11
- ❖ Lack of Biblically based faith and understanding of the Word of God
Acts 17:11; Rev. 2:20; Gal. 1:6
- ❖ When who are is based upon what you have – Mat. 6:19-21

How To Deal With Manipulation

- ❖ Eliminate the spirit of Ahab
 - Insecure, Unfocused, Passive – Phil. 1:20
- ❖ True spiritual authority – Mar. 16:17; Mat. 4:24
 - Her attack on Elijah was to get the man of God not to exercise his biblical authority
 - Practice submission to authority – Heb 13:17; Luke 22:31-32J; Eze. 33:1-6
- ❖ Refuse to compromise the Word of God no matter the cost! – John 17:17

“Not satisfied to establish her religion in Israel, Jezebel sought to stamp out every remnant of Jehovah worship and to kill every true prophet of God. She had to have things completely her way, and she almost succeeded. Some prophets survived by compromising their convictions and turning into “yes” men for Ahab. Another group of 100 were hidden in a cave and fed secretly by a godly servant of Ahab named Obadiah. But Elijah was the only one courageous enough to stand up openly against Jezebel’s wickedness. God gave him a great victory when he called down fire from heaven upon Mount Carmel. The prophets of Baal were slain and it looked as though the nation would turn back to God. But Jezebel was not finished with her sinister work. She swore in her rage that she would kill Elijah, and he ran for his life, collapsed in the wilderness under a juniper tree, and pleaded with God to let him die. It was the lowest point in the godly prophet’s great career. And Baal worship lived on, dragging the nation to new depths of degradation. This stubborn, headstrong, self-willed wife of Ahab brought disruption and distress to Israel for years to come.” (My Way – The Story of Ahab and Jezebel by Richard L. Strauss)

- ❖ Practice denying your will for God’s Will
 - Let’s look at Ahab’s selfishness with Naboth (1 Kings 21)
 - Naboth would have violated the Law if he had sold his paternal inheritance (Lev. 25:23-34)
 - What does Jesus say about denying your own will? Mat. 16:24
- ❖ Focus the atmosphere on worshipping God and not man – Heb. 8:2