

MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP

PODCAST
- BY BRENT BRADING -



EP67

Jesus' Letters to Leaders: **THYATIRA**

FOR THE GROUP LEADER

These notes have been designed to disciple leaders in round the table small group discussions.

What is in *ITALICS* is meant to be read out loud.

Welcome to this week's Mustard Seed Leadership discussion. The current series is "Jesus' Letters to Leaders"

STEP #1: ACCOUNTABILITY

Let's get started. The topic of discussion today is "THYATIRA" But before we start on the new topic, we will usually hold each other accountable about last week's action step.

Since this is the first in the series, let's go straight to the notes.

STEP #2: READ THE NOTES

Option 1: Let each person in the group take turns reading a section. (Each section is marked with a **READER #**). Go clockwise starting with the Group Leader, and highlight or underline what catches your attention.

Option 2: The leader reads all the sections.

Option 3: Watch the video.

<https://youtu.be/EMUkpHXLwaQ>

READER 1

Jesus' Letters to Leaders

Jesus writes seven letters to seven messengers or leaders, giving seven lessons on leading victoriously

Previous Lessons:

- 1. EPHESUS** - Kingdom leaders are in love with Jesus
- 2. SMYRNA** - Kingdom leaders understand suffering
- 3. PERGAMUM** - Kingdom leaders know how to wield the sword of God's Word

LESSON #4 - Thyatira

Kingdom leaders know how to operate in Authority

Revelation 2:18 (NIV)

18 "To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze.

REVELATION: Revelation leads to transformation - that is how you and the people you lead will change.

1. Jesus as the Son of God

"These are the words of the Son of God"

Jesus most often referred to Himself as the Son of Man

- He wanted to identify with us*
- He dwelt among us*

*But not now. This is the Son of God who stands before you. This is about **AUTHORITY** and **POWER***

READER 2

2. Jesus whose eyes are like blazing fire & feet like burnished bronze

Would have reminded them of Daniel's Vision:

Daniel 10:6-8 (NIV)

6 His body was like topaz, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude. 7 I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; those who were with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves. 8 So I

was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless.

**Agree that this is a revelation of the
AUTHORITY and POWER of Jesus**

- Not the intimacy of Ephesus
- Not the encouragement of Smyrna In one word:
AUTHORITY

CHALLENGE:

Revelation 2:19-21 (NIV)

19 I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first. 20 Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. 21 I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling.

Jesus commends them for their deeds, love, faith, perseverance and hard work - On the surface it looks like the church is doing really well

NEVERTHELESS....

Revelation 2:20 (NIV) Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel..."

TOLERATE is the key word in this letter

- To tolerate means you know something is wrong but you don't do anything about it
- To tolerate means your authority is being violated and you are not doing anything about it
- It means you are responsible for something but abdicate that responsibility
- Maybe because of fear, maybe laziness, maybe busyness
- But for whatever reason you are leaving a door open that should be closed

BIG IDEA: TOLERATE - YOU ARE NOT USING YOUR AUTHORITY TO EXERCISE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

In the Kingdom of God, proper authority is crucial

- *We need to be fully under the authority of Jesus*
- *And part of that means learning to exercise His authority and not tolerate what Jesus will not tolerate.*

Let's see what they were tolerating:

The 'woman Jezebel who calls herself a prophet'

Just like it is a husbands role to take responsibility for his wife and family

- *so the elders of the church were supposed to be ruling the church*
- *But they had abdicated the authority and were allowing this woman in the church to exercise the authority that they should have been exercising.*

Jezebel

- *Jezebel was the daughter of the Sidonian King who was king of Sidon and priest of Baal*

1 Kings 16:31 (NIV)

31 [Ahab] He not only considered it trivial to commit the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, but he also married Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal [with Baal] king of the Sidonians, and began to serve Baal and worship him.

The king of Israel married her to make peace (alliance) as a compromise instead of fighting for victory

- As king he allowed her to establish temples of Baal and train hundreds of priests of Baal in Israel*
- The worship of Baal involved temple prostitutes and sexual immorality as a form of worship*
- And feasting with food offered to Baal*
- Instead of Arab leading his wife to worship the Lord, he followed her to worship Baal*
- Instead of leading her in strength, he whined to her in self pity and abdicated his authority to her to lead.*

SUMMING UP JEZEBEL: *She despised authority. She manipulated to control. She*

threatened when she didn't get her way. She had zero fear of God.

And it was this spirit that the church allowed in by TOLERATING such behaviour

READER 4

EXAMPLE: Eli was high priest in charge of the temple - But had two wicked sons who neither feared God or respected their father

1 Samuel 3:13 (NIV)

13 For I told him [Eli] that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons blasphemed God, and he failed to restrain them.

- by abdicating authority Eli brought judgement on the family*
- It was his responsibility to exercise authority as a father and discipline his sons but he didn't*

- Result was that he brought judgement onto his family

HOW DO KINGDOM LEADERS RESPOND?

KEY TO EXERCISING GODLY AUTHORITY:

James 4:7 (NIV) *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

This speaks about how to correctly handle authority in the Kingdom and it's result:

1. Submit to God - *you will only be in authority when you are under authority*

If you are abdicating authority because of fear, laziness or busyness then you are not fully submitted to Jesus!

The more you willingly put yourself under authority by faith - the more you will see the fruit of the authority of the gospel at work in you.

2. Resist the devil - *this is now learning to stand in authority*

- *Just like Eli should have resisted the sin of his sons*

- *Just like the church elders should have resisted spirit of this Jezebel rebellion in the church*

To **RESIST** is the opposite of to **TOLERATE**

Resist means stand up to, speak out against, hold accountable

READER 5

3. The result - *“and he will flee from you”*

This is the good news for Kingdom Leaders - when we stand in authority and resist instead of tolerating, Jesus steps in with his authority!

Notice how many times Jesus says ‘I will’:

Rev 2:21-23

21 I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. 22 So I will cast

her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. 23 I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

BIG IDEA: *If we face the fight, Jesus will fight the fight*

DO YOU SEE NOW WHY JESUS REVEALED HIMSELF AS THE SON OF GOD - CARRYING ALL AUTHORITY AND POWER?

What was the reward for breakthrough in this leadership area?

Revelation 2:26-27 (NIV)

*26 To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—
27 that one ‘will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery’—just as I have received authority from my Father.*

If you exercise authority locally - God will extend your authority globally

- If you get the authority right in your life then God can give you more authority

- God uses what we do in our own home and church to prepare us for a greater inheritance in the nations

READER 5

CONCLUSION:

Authority is HUGE in the Kingdom of God

1. Make sure that you are fully submitted to the authority of Jesus by obeying his Word

2. Make sure that you are submitting to godly authority in your life and not playing on Jezebel's team!

3. Make sure that you are exercising proper godly authority by facing authority clashes and not tolerating Jezebel's team!

BIG IDEA: Resisting instead of tolerating brings way more fruit than abdicating!

STEP #3: SHARE YOUR HIGHLIGHT

*Now let's go around the group and take turns sharing what stood out to you the most from what we read. **What stood out to you and why?***

STEP #4: EVALUATION

*I am going to ask each of you in turn to evaluate yourself (From a 5 which is **EXCELLENT**, down to a 1 meaning **LOTS OF WORK NEEDED!**) on how well you are doing in the area of this topic and then share this with the group and why you chose this score.*

STEP #5: Application

Lastly, let's go around the group and answer the following questions:

- 1. In what ways or areas of your life are you tolerating things that you should be resisting?*
- 2. What is at the root of your not exercising proper authority - fear, laziness, busyness?*
- 3. What would resisting this authority clash look like practically? What can you start doing as a first step?*

CLOSING

A great way to close off is to pair up briefly for a moment of prayer. Pray for each other that you will succeed in your action steps. Thank everyone for coming and committing to grow as a disciple of Jesus.

For more notes visit:

<https://outlookchurch.co.za/mustardseedleadership>

