



SECTION II – LESSON #7

SUMMARY:

In this lesson you will learn that the key to discovering a person's trustworthiness is to trust the direction of the Holy Spirit, who bears witness to that trustworthiness, in accordance with the Word of God.

MAIN LESSON IDEAS:

- As we build with God, He expects us to learn from Him how to guard and protect what we are building.
- Telling “stories,” making “exceptions”; circumventing systems; failing to discern can destroy the whole house (Ecc. 7:12, 9:18).

Discerning Whom You Can Trust

by Dennis Peacocke

- I. Building with the Holy Spirit involves learning how to protect, from our side of responsibility, what we are building together.
 - A. As we know from scripture, Satan seeks to pervert and destroy all that God is building.
 1. It is his nature to “kill and destroy” (John 10:10; 8:44).
 2. Our own fallenness is powerful enough to undercut what God is doing through us if we are not diligent!
 3. The Lord has convinced me that “the natural condition of the garden is weeds.”
 - B. From a big picture point of view, our major natural enemies are these:
 1. Satan and his minions
 - a. Enticement through the more devious breaking-of-the-law type sins
 - b. The much more subtle and dangerous “angels of light” type entrapment. Examples: false prophetic words; really “understanding” opposite sex work partners; projects that God really did put in your heart to do but in your haste they are done the wrong way (David and the Ark; see 2 Sam. 1 6:1-10)

2. Our flesh (1 John 2:16; Gal. 5:16-26)
 - a. Enticement that skews our judgment and behavior through the lust of the flesh. Examples: sexual sins; overeating; misuse of alcohol; drugs; anger; hatred; factionalism
 - b. Enticement that skews our judgment and behavior through the lust of the eyes. Examples: pornography; covetousness; having to have the "best"
 - c. Enticement that skews our judgment and behavior through the pride of life. Examples: striving for position; living outwardly to "be seen of men" (Matt. 6:1-6,16); boastful; prideful; envious; covetous; conspicuous consumption; Absalom spirit; controlling spirit; having to be "right"

II. A short but important list of enticements, entrapments, and "sounds of the hunter" we should all be in constant prayer about as we seek to build God's Kingdom in the marketplace

A. Spiritual issues of concern:

1. Making major decisions that circumvent your spouse, "due to circumstances"
2. Making major decisions that circumvent your spiritual accountability support partners
3. Making major decisions for those whose input you seek laterally or who serve you
4. Making major decisions that attempt to circumvent your superiors
5. Wanting to build on people who are scarred, but not *too* scarred!

B. Character issues of concern:

1. Having to have what you want *now*. The law of death, burial, and resurrection
2. We must develop a great nose to smell ambition and strife (2 Tim. 2:14), especially on ourselves.
3. We must discern self-will that is not yielded to Christ.

C. Dangerous situations or "people types" of concern:

1. Dangerous situations (where the hunter waits for you)
 - Situations that "demand" immediate decisions without the ability to carry out due diligence (**with prayer**) for the opportunity. The Holy Spirit leads and urges, but He never "demands." God always gives us time to obey.
2. Dangerous people who will lead you straight into the hunters:

- a. “Home run” hitters and “can’t miss investments”
- b. People who carry in them a “demand” that makes you feel crowded into agreeing with their desired action *for you*
- c. Working with or taking counsel from people who are constantly reaching up or outside of their sphere (Psalm 131)
- d. People who want to be close to you but show little interest in your spouse, children, or life outside of their work with you
- e. People who are not properly under authority or who are constantly undermining authority
- f. People who don’t exhibit a fear of the Lord