THE TYRANT IN THE MIRROR:
DECLARING INDEPENDENCE FROM KING ME

BIG IDEA: THE IDEA OF PERSONAL AUTONOMY--THAT WE SHOULD BE SELF-DIRECTED, SELF-SUFFICIENT AND SELF-FULFILLED--IS AN ESPECIALLY SUBVERSIVE VERSION OF THE SELFISHNESS THAT IS AS OLD AS TIME. WHY? **BECAUSE IT HAS MINGLED WITH BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES, AND MANY CHRISTIANS ARE UNAWARE THAT THEY HAVE DETHRONED KING JESUS AND REPLACED HIM WITH THE FICKLE TYRANT THAT LOOKS BACK FROM THE MIRROR.** THIS QUIET REBELLION HAS LEFT THE CHURCH APATHETIC, UNCERTAIN AND INEFFECTIVE IN A KEY MOMENT IN ITS HISTORY**. IT'S TIME TO DECLARE INDEPENDENCE FROM OURSELVES AND DEPENDENCE ON GOD**. ONLY THEN WILL WE HAVE THE COURAGE AND STRENGTH TO LIVE OUT THE GOSPEL IN OUR TIMES. HERE'S HOW:

TOPICS COVERED:

- **THE HERO PROBLEM**
- **THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SUCCESS AND FAME**
- **THE KEY TO SUPERNATURAL STRENGTH AND TIMING**
- **AN ETERNAL IDENTITY**

THE HERO PROBLEM

WE ALL WANT TO BE THE HERO IN OUR OWN STORY, BUT HOW EXACTLY SHOULD WE ACCOMPLISH THIS IN A COMPLEX AND DISTRACTED WORLD? EVEN IF WE CAPTURE A BIT OF FAME, THAT FAME CAN BE TERRIBLY TEMPORARY. FORTUNATELY, JESUS OFFERS A RADICALLY DIFFERENT SOLUTION: FOLLOW HIM. IF WE CHOOSE TO FOLLOW HIM, WE WLL DISCOVER THE REASON WE WERE CREATED AND JOIN HIM IN HIS GREAT PLANS TO REDEEM THE WORLD. **HERE IS THE IMPORTANT FACT THAT MANY CHRISTIANS MISS: WE ARE NOT THE HEROES IN OUR OWN STORIES. GOD IS.** ONLY IF WE ACCEPT THIS TRUTH WILL WE COME IN LINE WITH GOD'S PURPOSE AND POWER FOR OUR LIVES.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SUCCESS AND FAME

WAIT. AREN'T SUCCESS AND FAME THE SAME THING? NOPE. **SUCCESS IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE BY PROVIDING REMARKABLE VALUE. FAME IS GETTING NOTICED BY A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE FOR ANY REASON NO MATTER HOW INCONSEQUENTIAL OR MORALLY REPREHENSIBLE.** MANY PEOPLE ARE SEEKING FAME, BUT THEY DO NOT REALIZE HOW FICKLE AND HOLLOW IT IS. INSTEAD, WE SHOULD SEEK SUCCESS BECAUSE IT FOCUSES OUR HEARTS AND MINDS ON DISCERNING THE PROBLEMS OF THE PEOPLE AROUND US AND PROVIDING REAL SOLUTIONS TO THOSE PROBLEMS (MATTHEW 20:28).

THE KEY TO SUPERNATURAL STRENGTH AND TIMING

JOHN WAYNE, WONDER WOMAN AND RAMBO TOOK ON ALL THE BAD GUYS WITHOUT ASSISTANCE, SO WE FIGURE WE CAN TOO. BUT THE MODERN TRUTH-CLAIM--THAT ALL THE STRENGTH YOU NEED IS HIDING SOMEWHERE DEEP INSIDE YOU--IS A LIE. ALSO, PERSONAL AUTONOMY CALLS FOR OUR GREATEST IMPACT RIGHT NOW. TIME IS A WASTING AND PATIENCE, IT SEEMS, IS A LIABILITY. BUT, GOD OFTEN PREPARED HIS CHOISE SERVANTS IN SEASONS OF OBSCURITY. SO, WE MUST RECOVER THE SECRET OF GOD'S STRENGTH AND TIMING. **OUR CONFIDENCE COMES WHEN WE ARE ACCOMPLISHING GOD'S PLAN IN GOD'S WAY IN GOD'S TIME.**

AN ETERNAL IDENTITY

WHO AM I? THAT'S THE BILLION-DOLLAR QUESTION, RIGHT? PERSONAL AUTONOMY TELLS US TO CONFIDENTLY DEFINE OURSELVES ACCORDING TO OUR FEELINGS AND INTERESTS. BUT, WHAT DO WE DO WHEN LIFE CRUSHES THAT IDENTITY? TIME WILL CATCH UP WITH THE ATHLTE, BEAUTY FADES, KIDS GROW UP, INDUSTRIES CHANGE AND EVEN MINISTRIES EVENTUALLY CHANGE LEADERSHIP. **EVERY MAN-MADE IDENTITY WILL PERISH. THAT IS WHY WE MUST FIND OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST.** ONLY THIS IDENTITY WILL ENDURE THE CRUEL TWISTS OF LIFE IN A BROKEN WORLD, OUR OWN FICKLE NATURE AND THE HARSH REALITIES OF AGE AND DEATH. ONLY THIS IDENTITY WILL ENDURE FOR ETERNITY.

MATERIALS PROVIDED

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION/HANDOUT FOR NOTE TAKING
PHOTO AND BIO OF SPEAKER