

Witness Protection

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Rango Johnson: People hold a Christian to a higher standard, no matter what you done great but one fall, they would number.

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And now for 6524, "Witness Protection, Protecting the Witness Within."

Rango Johnson: Welcome to Brothers of the Word, because, brother, you need the word. The title of my message tonight is "Witness Protection". Protecting the Witness Within." Why? Because they're watching, they're listening and they're talking. They're watching us, the things we do. Listening to us, the things that we say and they're discussing our behavior.

Open Verse comes from Isaiah 43, 10, Isaiah 43, 10 King James Version and it reads, "You are my witnesses, said the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen, as you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me."

Witness protection, the first thing that came to your mind, most of you, was to go and get protection -- witness protection as a program. Let me describe. It is a Witness Security Program known as WITSEC that provides protection for government witness who are at risk due to testimony they have given about a terrorist or criminal. Now we're going to compare the government witness and God witness.

First, I start with the government witness. First, they are given a new identity, a new name, Social, a new birthday, relocation--a new home, a new job, occupation and a whole new region of the world to live in. Whether it's in state, other country. They are alienated to within society and forced to live out a lie for their own safety.

Okay, now for the witness of God, God's people. First of all, we're under his divine protection. We're identified with Christ, given a

new name -- Saints of God, we were born again with a new birth in Christ. We are relocated in heavenly places, seated in Christ Jesus. We are ambassadors for Christ which is our new occupation. We have been transformed in the likeness of Christ. allows that we're separated from darkness to light, to live by the truth of Jesus Christ.

So, today we are talking about protecting your witness, protecting your reputation, protecting your godly character. Why? Because they're watching, they're listening and they're talking. They're watching us, listen to us and they're talking. First, let's define witness. It means to see, hear, to know about personal presence or perception. A second definition is to bear witness to, testify to, to give or for evidence of. And whenever police officer arrives on the scene of a crime and finds his victim who is unconscious or near to death, and the first thing he asked, "Do we have any witness?"

Let's describe protection. Protection is the action of protecting or the state of being protected. Another word for protection is safe keeping or safe guarding. Safe keeping our reputation and safe guarding our heart. Though Jesus is the ultimate, ultimate example to follow for his witnesses concerning overall. When Jesus came as a witness of Kingdom of God, to be a witness to the world show casing God's grace. Jesus was absolutely the face of grace. We know as a child Jesus was actively in the temple of God discussing the law, being about his Father's witness.

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With divine purpose, he knew his past reputation would have an affect on his future reputation in his ministry. Therefore, Jesus had to do what he had to build and maintain his godly character. Protecting the witness of the Kingdom of God because he knew what? That the Pharisees and Sadducees would be watching, listening and talking and testing him, seeking an opportunity to discredit his character and to tear down his ministry.

So, remember saints, when you profess to be a Christian and to wear the big C on your chest or on your heart, we became what? We became a target of Satan and of the world. Once again why? Because they're watching, they're listening and they're talking.

Now, before Jesus fame -- he's very famous and his fame came about. We had John the Baptist on the scene talking about Jesus, he's talking about what he's going to do. He set the stage for his reputation. Jesus knew in order to be an effective witness he had to what? He had number one, he had to walk in obedience to the will of God. He had to know it. He had to believe it. He had to walk in it.

Number two, he operated in wisdom. You see in the Bible, when Jesus was seeking God on a daily basis, early morning prayer. Spending time with the Father, getting wisdom to find the Father, to go out on the world who change his mission. Number three, Jesus established his association which is very crucial for anybody, any believer, association does matter. Something about association that I notice.

He operated within three levels of association. Number one, he had outer circle association which was the masses, the people that he talked to in a daily basis. The people that he healed, the people that he rebuked the demon from. The people that he communes with setting an example, spending time with. He didn't really know them but it's part of his ministry was to go out among the masses. That was his outer circle. We all have the same thing when you look at it. We have three levels.

The second level of his association is the inner circle, which was the twelve disciples was his inner circle. The people that follows through years that walked with Jesus and they talked with Jesus. They witnessed the things that he did, things that he said, how he acted--with the Pharisees and the Sadducees, how he maintained the law, how he maintained his cool. The inner circle, Jesus' inner circle.

And the next one is called the inner most circle. Inner most circle was Peter, James and John. Peter, James and John were chosen by Jesus to be the part of the inner most circle. On occasion, you will see that Jesus and his three were departing goes separate from the nine. On the mountain in Matthew Chapter 17, on the mountain, Peter, James and John saw this transfiguration of Jesus Christ and they saw how his face shone like the sun and how his clothes begin to be like radiant light. They also witnessed Elijah and Moses on the scene.

They also witnessed a cloud come over and begin to speak and God spoke, "This is my beloved Son whom I'm well pleased." So, they witnessed the deepest depth of Jesus. Even in the Garden Gethsemane in Chapter 26 of Matthew, the nine were separated. He took three to go pray and we know this story. They could hang in prayer but they were there praying with Jesus. So, they saw him transform and they saw him agonize when he was awake. But Jesus took those three so that was the three levels of association. That when you think about it, we have also the outer circle, the inner circle and the inner most circle.

To further go through what I just spoken about, I'm going to Matthew Chapter 16 Verse 13 through 16, NIV. That's Matthew Chapter 16 Verse 13 through 16 NIV. And it reads, Verse 13 says, "When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea and Philippi, he asked his disciple, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

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Verse 15, he says, "but what about you, He asked, who do you say I am." In Verse 16, "Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Now, Jesus knew he was, without a doubt. At this point, his ministry, he had risen to great fame because of the mighty miracles he performed. In verse 18, Jesus acts to inner circle about out of circle because he knew the people didn't know who he truly was. They do not know fully who he was and he knew that they will form their own opinion about him.

Now, down in Verse 14, Jesus was compared to some of the greatest prophets to ever live would solidify his reputation. That wasn't his main concern. His main concern was the 12. And he says, he was concerned about his disciples knowing the truth without a doubt because they will live to become some of the greatest witness of the Ministry of Jesus Christ, witnessing. Jesus had to establish the witnessing of his ministry.

Now look on Luke, there's six types of witness and this is spirit discerning. So, you have to open up your spiritual ears. The six types of witnesses. Number one, we have the undercover witness. That is in Luke 1, brother. He planned both sides. On Sunday, he is in church. Monday morning, he went to crowd. He is a Christian on Sunday but the crowd don't know who he is because

what? He can mingle with the church. He can mingle with the world. Undercover Christian, undercover witness.

Number two, false witness. It is the blind-hearted witness. He is known he know the truth but insist on living out a lie. Now, he is very dangerous because he is willing to fully compromise in the word of God, was bringing confusion to himself and to other people within the body, people who come in contact with, the false witness.

Number three, character witness. Now, this witness, it is the mirror reflecting witness, that is self-reflection. The question that you must ask if you're a character witness. What are we watching? What am I listening to and what are the words that I'm speaking? Am I speaking life or death? What am I speaking? And next question is what is the witness of your character? What is the witness of your character?

Step outside, you certainly begin to look at your character and see yourself and be true for yourself. Either, he is reflecting the character of God or he is reflecting the world's character. Either I or in between. Now, I am going to give a testimony and how you (00:12:54) with it. I want you to use your imagination.

This testimony is about two co-workers, one named Desi Lee, a given name to her and one named Doris Jean. Now, Desi Lee is that devoted Christian. She comes to work. Everybody knows she have a Bible. She lives to the gospel (00:13:09). She devoted. They come to her for advice. She was a standard. They know who she is. She is the one we go to when we need some encouragement.

So, we will have Doris Jean who has been convicted recently. Now, she goes over to Desi Lee. Desi Lee give her some advice because she want to know about Christ and she's feeling bad by being in a new world and God has convicted her to come in and she knew to go to for encouragement and Desi Lee does that. She encouraged her.

But a few weeks later, the supervisor wanted to have a Christmas party and guess we won't have it at a night club. So, he invited the whole (00:13:47). All these people. All the employees to go to a Christmas party. So, Doris Jean roll in, because Doris Jean stayed in a new world. She rolled it in the nightclub but guess

what? Who did she see? Desi Lee in the night club and she begin to wonder why are you here? Why she's here?

So, she approaches Desi Lee, "Why are you here? I thought the people of God don't come to places like this. I'm confused now." And perhaps you lost her witness that particular night. Check your character. Do I need to go? How would it affect someone else? Because people hold a Christian to high standard. No matter what you've done great, but one fall, they remember.

So people have with perception of who a Christian should be and that perception based on the witness of Jesus Christ. The question is, Would Jesus be in the club? So that may be her mindset. The next one, living witness. That's the faithful witness. He is supernatural in power by the Holy Spirit. He is like Apostle Paul. He is anchored in Christ. No turning back, steadfast. He is solid. He has lived in the world. He lived in the truth. He is in prayer. He is worshipping.

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He is doing his thing. He stayed connected to God. And we have another one, the, fifth one, that at large witness, and I stay at large witness. You know what at large mean. It's that person who has not yet surrendered the life to Christ nor within their hearts. He is real, the same person who grew up in church, who did not yet commit but he know that Christ is real. He knows this within his heart but because of something happening in church perhaps, tradition or someone says, something that you saw that displeased him, he left the church. It's hard to return because something that he witness. He is at large. It's that prodigal child. He is at large.

The sixth one is the righteous witness. The next is 20 through 1, speak about putting your hand with the wicked who makes you a righteous witness. It's a person who's full of pride. Now, (00:15:55) toward God, who's living in a best end state and those in constant sin whose heart has turned cold to the things of God. They are simply going through the motion. They simply going through the motion. Doing unrighteous acts and things and hanging with those are the wicked.

Those are the six witnesses. So in closing, one thing I want you to remember, the more thing and follows that you have, the

greater the impact of your reputation and your character have you fall from grace. So be careful why because they what? They're watching, they're listening, they're talking. They're watching us. They're watching the things that we do. They're listening. They're hearing our conversations and they're talking, they're discussing among themselves. the Christians and nonbelievers. They're talking.

So, the question is, what is your witness displaying to the world today? Now, we all know that being a Christian come with high morals, integrity. The minute I get the first time but God doesn't give a bonus. He won't give a bonus. People who had that I just mentioned, it's always grace. It's always mercy but we need to have what? High standard when we come before the outer circle. We come before the inner circle and the most inner circle of our lives. So, I'm going to say thank you for coming out tonight. I hope you enjoyed the message because, brother, you need the word.

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