

POISONED BY THE WORLD'S SYSTEM

Push Back

POINTS TO PONDER:

- When we pray, a battle goes on overhead over our prayers
- God's Kingdom battles against Satan's kingdom.
- Prayer is powerful. It shakes kingdoms.
- From the day we pray, God sends an answer. But, prayers get hindered by the kingdom of darkness. Don't give up. You have divine access to the Kingdom of Heaven. Press in, hang on, don't give up.

READ: Luke 10:18 – 19

SYNOPSIS: Jesus spoke that we have authority over the enemy. This affirms that there is a battle and that there is an enemy. You cannot just have a 'meh' attitude about this battle. Jesus stated that the enemy that is set against us has a 'power'. What then could that power be? The power is seen in the in the last part of the verse. Our enemy is alluded to as a 'scorpion' and 'snake'. Thus, our enemy's method of defeating us is to poison us. Once poisoned, our enemy, Satan, waits for the 'death of our faith'. But we must NOT let this poisoning cause us to 'lay down' and give up the fight against Satan's kingdom.

Some of the enemy's poison tactics:

- Do you have a "meh" attitude towards praying?
- Do you ever use the phrase, "It is what it is?" Why?
- Satan poisons us in our attitude about God, faith, prayer, and authority. (Who we are in Jesus)
- Satan poisons us by getting us to 'cave in' to our emotions.

Can you identify an area of your life where you see poison at work?

How does the poison rob you of your authority?

Can you identify any emotions that are poisoning you? What are they?

READ: Daniel 1:1 – 21

SYNOPSIS: Daniel is taken captive by a Babylonian King. His nation, Judah, has been taken over, and Daniel becomes a slave to the system of rule. Daniel, because of his aptitude, education, appearance, and health has been chosen to be part of the service of the Royal Palace of the Babylonian king. Daniel is selected to be part of a 3 year training regimen to indoctrinate him into the culture, language, and system of the Babylonian ways. After 3 years of training Daniel will enter the Royal Service. Part of this training regimen is that all the subjects are given a specific diet. The diet is part of the indoctrination process. Daniel refuses this diet. Daniel has purposed in his heart to stay loyal to his God despite his being captive. So he objects to the eating of food he considers as unclean. The chief of staff in charge of Daniel obliges Daniel of the request. For 10 days Daniel eats a "DIFFERENT DIET" of food. After this time of testing Daniel is found to be better than all else in the program. Because of such Daniel is exalted to a high position of leadership. His willingness to be different because of WHO HE WAS gained him the favor to accomplish great things for God's kingdom.

Some of the enemy's poison tactics:

- Daniel's tribe, The Tribe of Judah = praise.
- The first thing Satan tries to take is poison is your praise.
- It's hard to praise once you've been poisoned.
- Satan always comes to rob you of your praise.
- Praise is a powerful weapon to defeat poison.
- Praise is warfare not just songs we sing in church.

Do you struggle to praise God when life gets hard? Why?

How can a lack of praise be a sign you've been poisoned?

What makes our praise warfare rather than just music?

SATAN'S INITIAL POISON - DO LIFE THE WORLD'S WAY

As seen in Chapter One, Satan's initial poison is to get you to do life 'like the world' does life. The challenge is to live on this planet and not get sucked into the system of doing life apart from God's ways. Daniel could have easily settled to 'give in' to the system. He was well able to succeed in the system without God's help. He was smart. He was handsome. He was educated. Daniel was well on his way to success in the Babylonian system - all he had to do was agree to do it the 'Babylonian Way.' This is the root of Satan's poison - ***you can be successful without God.*** This mindset strives to be good, successful, hard working, and building up of accolades and achievements. The poison? God is nowhere in the mix. But Daniel should us a great truth. Even in the system, even being successful - we cannot do life without God. Why? We are different. We are different not because of WHAT WE DO. We are different because of WHO WE ARE.

- Poison works to tell you who you ARE NOT rather than who you ARE.
- Speak the WORD over your life - who you are.
- The poison tries to rob you of who you are.
- Your scars are a testimony to the grace of God.
- When you live genuine faith, even non – believers will respect you.

Why does God need to be part of the equation of success?

Why does success rob us of being desperate for God's help?

How do you live for God and rely on God while living in the 'world's system'?

HOW TO TELL YOU'VE BEEN POISONED:

- When you stick to what you are good at, you will feel like "I got this" – I don't need help.
- Poison removes our desperation for God from our lives.
- Why did Nebuchadnezzar want the strong, good looking, no blemished?
- Satan attacks the good areas of our lives – where we are relying on our own strengths?
- You forget you are different.

HOW TO DEFEAT THE POSION OF THE WORLD'S SYSTEM:

- Realize you are different. You are a child of God. That makes you different.

- You're not a bad person made better by religion. You are made completely different by grace. God doesn't make you better. He makes you completely new.
- Don't be poisoned by the lie that you are not different,
- The God of all creation lives inside of you. (Colossians 1:27)
- We carry His presence everywhere we go.
- Demons tremble because of His presence. Demons tremble because of you.
- If you feel like you are just 'eeking' through life, you have been poisoned.
- Close your computer (stop Googling life), and open your mouth and begin to praise.

Do you truly believe you are different?

How can different seem arrogant to onlookers?

Even though we are different, why is it so tempting to live like the world lives?

What are some practical ways you show your difference when facing life's challenges?

Do you struggle compromising God's system and the world's system in how you live?

Have you been poisoned by the world's system of how things are done?