

SW FLORIDA PASTORS' CONFERENCE * SARASOTA, FL**GUEST SPEAKER: JIM HENRY * SEPTEMBER 17, 2019**

My brothers,

I've been asked for my notes from this conference, so I thought I'd make them available to you as well. Please know that these are the raw notes I took in real time as Jim Henry shared his heart with us. So please excuse all typos and any thing I may have misunderstood or written incorrectly. Enjoy! — Mark

INTRODUCTION:

- [] 800 pastors leave the ministry every year.
- [] 3 main reasons: 1) Professional antagonistic critics 2) Marital/Family stress 3) Emotional fatigue*
- [] CEO life span is 7 years; Pastors are on 24/7; Professional athletes don't do that!

11 TIPS FOR PASTORS:

1. You shall stay Spiritually Strong (Psa. 95:6-7)
 - [] Cultivate a daily, fruitful Quiet Time with the Lord; Prayer walking; Daily prayer themes & lists
2. You shall work at being physically fit
 - [] Good grooming; Good diet; Good work out
3. You shall strive for emotional balance (Mark 6:30-31)
 - [] Take your vacation time!!; Take 2 Sundays/weeks in a row; Take sabbaticals
 - [] If you don't plan your calendar, others will; Plan carefully, reasonably
4. You shall remain mentally strong (Matt.22:37)
 - [] Read constantly; Go to conferences; Talk with smarter people frequently
5. You shall be to willingly to constantly change (Eccl. 3:1-8)
 - [] Don't be afraid to fail; You will, it's okay
6. You shall stay (II Tim.2:15)
 - [] Grind faithfully for good sermons; Preach/counsel on Sundays ; Thurs. was my counseling 1/2 day
7. You shall listen to many/counsel (Prov. 12:5; James 1:19)
 - [] Listen to laity, staff (2 staff retreats a year); Listening lunches and meetings; Young & Old
8. You shall frequently ask (Matt 7:7-8)
9. You shall look at heroes of the faith (II Kings 4:8-11)
10. You shall keep the romance going at home (Prov. 5:15-18)
11. You shall be focus and make Jesus the focal point (Heb. 12:1-2) "Son, remember Jesus!"

SHEPHERDS LEAD PEOPLE; THEY DO NOT DRIVE THEM.

TIPS FOR PASTORS' FAMILY LIFE:

1. Affirm your love for your wife publically
2. Schedule a day a week with her
3. Be good stewards; tithe as a family and give beyond; Plan carefully
4. Take your vacation with your wife
5. Maintain marital intimacy, all of your years
6. Don't let your church, money, or women become your mistresses
7. Protect your wife from your church (His wife: "My number one job is keeping Jim happy.")
8. You should have some church friends. (Jesus had Peter, James, and John)
9. Open affection in front of the children
10. Teach kids to respect their mother
11. Ask kids for forgiveness when you've botched it
12. You as a grandparent have a far greater impact than you can imagine
13. Pick your mountains to die on
14. Spend your money on experiences, not things (They remember the experiences)
15. Fast for your children and grandchildren from time to time
16. Tell them you love them, and kiss them
17. Take your kids and grandkids on a date, wherever they want to go
18. Wear your church lightly; Make every day count (carpe diem); **Your real family is your real family**
19. Plan for your future retirement, it will come before you know it
20. Plan your memorial service (Put it in an envelope marked JIC — Just In Case)
21. Make a will; Put your testimony in your will; Include at least a tithe to the Lord's work; Money from will spent in 90 days!!!
22. Give your spouse your very best. Love her whole self, her whole life.

DEALING WITH CRITICISM

CRITICISM . . .

1. It often comes when you least need it (II Samuel 16:1-4; 14:1-15; 15:15-37; also Tamar's story)
2. It often come when you least deserve it (I Sam. 24:1-22; 26:1-25; II Sam. 1:1-27; I Sam 16:1-13; II Sam. 5:1-5 20 year wait)
3. It often comes from the least qualified to give it.
4. It often comes as a personal attack

IF IT IS SERIOUS CRITICISM . . .

1. Document everything; Have a paper trail in case it becomes a legal matter
2. Inform law enforcement if criticism includes threats
3. Recognize the unpredictability of criticism
4. Protect your family; Guard your cell phone number
5. Create an organizational response plan

IN DEALING WITH CRITICISM . . .

1. RETALIATION is never right. It violates Jesus instruction to love, and it doesn't work
2. REACTION IS: Explaining our actions; Justifying our motives; Arguing the issue to our advantage
3. RESPONSE IS: Stay focused on your mission. How?
[] Control: 1) Agenda of meetings; 2) Subject of conversation; 3) What you write and speak on
4. Determine to find God's will in every criticism (Find the chicken dinner when the feathers start flying)
5. We can change at the point of criticism
6. We will have opportunity to love our enemy
7. We will have forbearance being shaped in our lives
8. We will share in a small part of Jesus' suffering
9. Ultimately allow God and others to handle your critics

REMEMBER . . .

1. God holds everyone accountable
2. God will make things right in the end

HOW TO SHEPHERD, NOT JUST PREACH (PSALM 78:72)

1. Every Christmas, write notes to folks who lost a loved one that year
2. Write note to new parents (pink and blue paper)
3. Write letters to parents for Baby Dedication day
4. Write letter to children after they get saved
5. Counsel couples three time before you marry them
6. Do home dedications when people get in new home, with the neighbors
7. Write kids earning achievements
8. Pastor's prayer partners ministry to pray for me at least one day a year; Have a sign up
9. Have an after service reception line
10. Call people facing surgery and do your hospital visits
11. Do evangelistic visits regularly so your heart doesn't grow cold
12. Invite colleagues over for dinner
13. Write thank you's and "I love you" notes regularly
14. Spend time with young people
15. Call prospects of the church on Monday and Tuesday nights
16. Have lunch or breakfast with your men. Love on them!
17. Recognize paid and volunteer staff with quarterly lunch for birthdays and anniversaries
18. Go to bat for staff raises, not your own
19. Special prayer days for people with cancer, prodigals, healing, babies/pregnancies, etc.
20. Have Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

HOW TO ENCOURAGE GIVING IN YOUR CHURCH

1. Model it as the pastor to give beyond the tithe. They will not go further than you
2. Get out of debt. Pay off houses, credit cards in 30 days, etc.
3. Preach about giving, tithing, generosity
4. Give 10% beyond the church right off the top
5. Get rid of church debt as fast as you can
6. Use the offering as a teaching time, rather than rote prayers from ushers or deacons (Stories; passages; etc.)
7. Don't "take the offering," rather "let's worship through giving" "Joy of giving"
8. Provide training in stewardship from voices other than your own
9. Put generous people in leadership positions on key committees
10. Challenge people to give big ("We're \$10,000 short, so somebody is holding out?")
11. Do a preaching series on giving; Use creative titles
12. Have audits and handle finances carefully, securely, and with transparency
13. Have spontaneous offerings; Don't be gun shy!
14. Give a dollar and go multiply it over a month (car wash; bake bread, etc.) , and bring profit back for a special offering. FUN!!
15. Love offerings for people directly on Christmas Eve and every Lord's Supper. Celebrate the victories!
16. Teach your people the joy and blessing of giving.