

The Crucible of the Call

Ministerial Licensing Course Part 5: Character, Discipline, and Godly Sorrow

The Holy Vessel

The call of God is holy. The work of ministry is holy. Because the call is holy, the vessel must be examined.

Vessels Unto Honor

- The test is not designed to prove how gifted you are or how well you speak, but to reveal what has been formed in you.
- God may give gifts, but He proves vessels. A gift is not proof that the person has matured.
- The vessel must be "meet for the master's use"—fit, useful, prepared, and sanctified.
- Public usefulness is not enough. The life must match the Lord you name.



The Fining Pot



The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace
for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts.



— Proverbs 17:3

The Wilderness Test

Revealing the Heart

Deuteronomy 8:2 reminds us that God led Israel in the wilderness to humble them, prove them, and know what was in their heart. The test reveals what governs you.

Exposing True Nature

The wilderness did not create rebellion; it revealed it. The crucible does not reveal what you pretend to be; it reveals what is actually in the heart when pressure comes.

The Minister's Prayer

139 PSALMS 23-24

A Call to Self-Examination

"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

This is the posture of a person who wants God more than they want an image. The minister must not run from conviction.

Godly Sorrow & Repentance



Worldly Sorrow

Worldly sorrow grieves because it got caught. It wants consequences removed and protects its image. It asks, "How will this affect me?"



Godly Sorrow

Godly sorrow grieves because God was dishonored. It seeks cleansing and a changed heart. It cries out for inward renewal, not just public restoration.



True Repentance

Repentance is a change of mind that produces a change of direction. It is not just tears; it is bearing fruit that agrees with the confession.

The Fruit of the Spirit

- We are looking for fruit: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance.
- The fruit of the Spirit must matter more to the minister than the display of the gift.
- Ability without love is nothing. Revelation without love is nothing. Sacrifice without love is nothing.
- The servant of God cannot properly represent the God of love while lacking His Spirit.



Flee and Follow

The Discipline of Movement

The minister must learn both movement patterns: flee and follow.

Flee youthful lusts, fornication, and idolatry. Follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, and holiness.

Holiness is not an accessory to ministry; it is essential to the calling.

Faithfulness Required

- ✓ **It is required in stewards** that a man be found faithful. It is not suggested; it is a mandate.
- ✓ **Can you be found faithful** when it is inconvenient, when you are tired, or when no one praises you?
- ✓ **He that is faithful in least** is faithful also in much. The small and the hidden are the ultimate tests.
- ✓ **Before God trusts you with your own**, He examines how you steward another man's vision and house.

Formed for the Master's Use

Training without transformation creates religious ability without spiritual maturity. The goal is Christlikeness.

The Processed Prophets



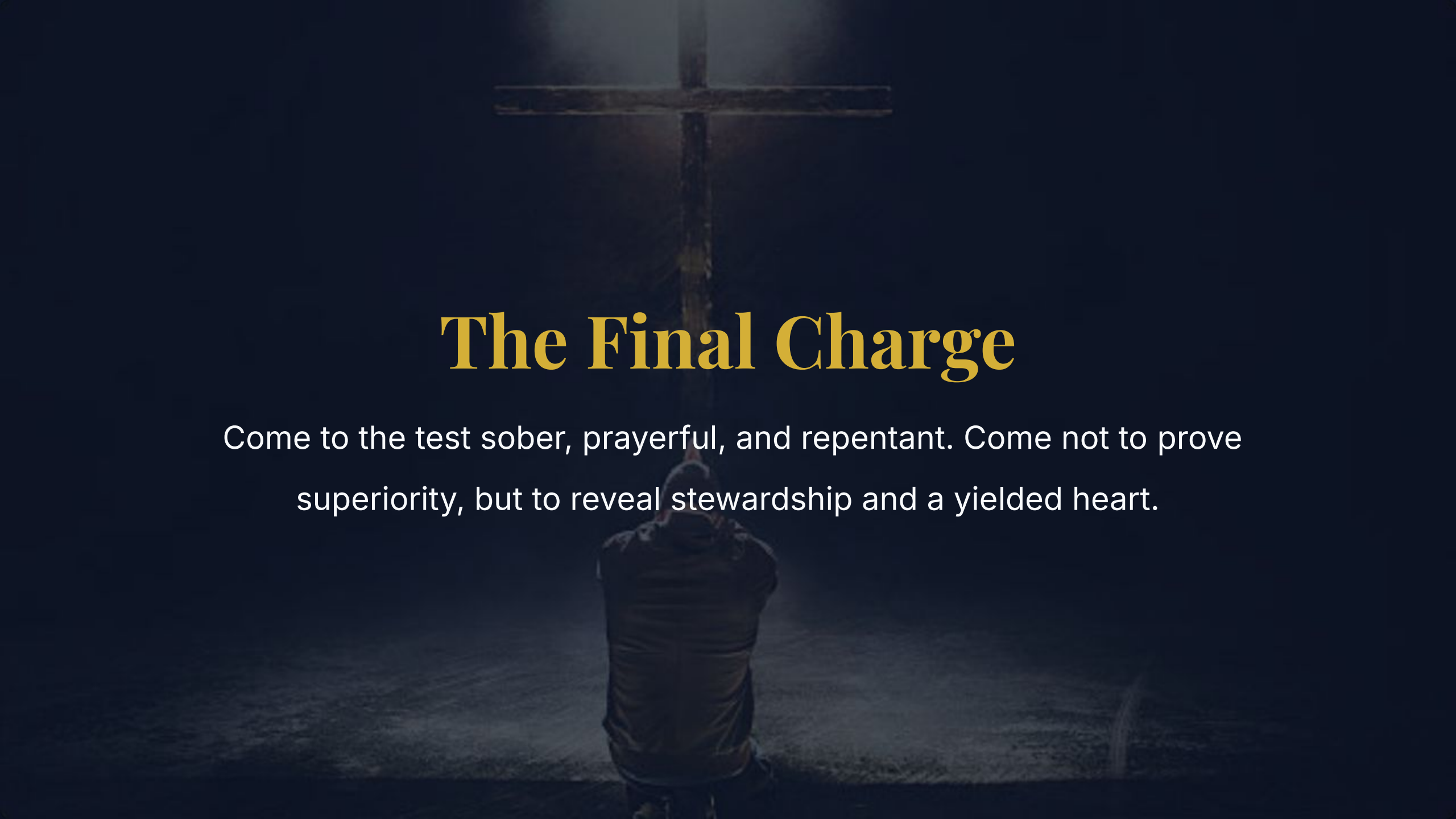
Joseph: The word of the Lord tried him. Before he governed grain, he had to steward pain in Potiphar's house and in prison.



Moses: The sent man first had to learn holy ground in the wilderness before standing before a king.



Isaiah: The messenger's mouth had to be cleansed by the coal from the altar before the messenger was sent.

A person is kneeling in prayer, facing a large, weathered wooden cross. The scene is dark and atmospheric, with a misty or smoky background. The person is wearing a dark jacket and is positioned in the lower center of the frame. The cross is made of rough-hewn wood and stands prominently in the center. The overall mood is solemn and reflective.

The Final Charge

Come to the test sober, prayerful, and repentant. Come not to prove superiority, but to reveal stewardship and a yielded heart.

A Vessel Unto Honor

Are you becoming safe for the work?

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