

I. Introduction

- a. Today's message is about being H.O.T.: Honest, open, and transparent.

Hebrews 4:13 (NLT)

13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.

II. Story of Judas

- a. Judas was one of the 12 disciples, who managed Jesus' money and had an impressive resume.
 - i. There must have been something extraordinary about him that caused Jesus to trust him with His money.
- b. He had potential to do great things as shown by giving up an entrepreneurial background and being disowned to follow John the Baptist.
- c. Judas walked with Jesus daily while experiencing miracles including:
 - i. Lazarus being raised from dead, after 4 days.
 - ii. Jesus walking on water.
 - iii. Jesus casting out demons.
- d. Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, which amounts to \$185-\$215.
- e. Jesus gave hints as to who would betray him and Judas still acted as foretold:
 - i. "The one who eats bread".
 - ii. "The one who isn't clean".
- f. Judas had to be walking with something in his heart to betray Jesus for so little in comparison to all He had done:
 - i. Placing trust in Judas with finances and giving him a job.
 - ii. Healing him.
 - iii. Calling into purpose.
 - iv. Blessing him.
- g. Judas had something in his heart that had always been there.
 - i. If he was H.O.T., he might be one of the people we read about in depth in the Bible today or took on the role Paul played in the church.
 - ii. He never opened up to other disciples, which ultimately messed up his calling or divine assignment and led to suicide.
 1. For example,
 - a. "I think Jesus is talking about me..."
 - b. "I have a problem..."
 - c. "I am dealing with this..."
 - d. "I saw my dad do this..."
 - e. "It hurt when my parents disowned me..."
- h. Some people go to church with something in their heart, which can make it more difficult to:
 - i. Receive from God.
 - ii. Receive or be in connect groups.
 - iii. Have a successful marriage.

- iv. Excel in jobs or careers.
- i. This message may be a warning for us before destruction to avoid:
 - i. Destroying the destiny on our lives.
 - ii. Delaying or cancelling our calling.

III. Story of Peter

- a. Peter was one of the disciples, who walked on water and cut someone's ear in defense of Jesus.
- b. Peter was H.O.T.
 - i. Jesus says "I have to die." Peter –says "No you don't. What do you mean?"
 - ii. Jesus walks up – Peter says, "No Lord, I am a sinner, get away."
 - iii. Jesus asked – "Who do you say I am?" Peter is first one to respond with, "Christ, son of God"
 - iv. Peter did deny he knew Jesus and felt bad afterwards.
 - v. When Jesus appeared after resurrection, he ran to Jesus.

IV. Judas vs. Peter

- a. Judas took his life and lost his calling, assignment and salvation.
- b. Peter was the pillar of the church, healed people with his shadow and served as one of greatest apostle.
- c. Peter was H.O.T. while Judas was not.

V. Being H.O.T.?

- a. Being honest with ourselves and others.
- b. Being open to advice and open heart to be changes.
- c. Being transparent or the real us in front of others.
- d. Subjectable to physical or emotional attack as well as vulnerable.
- e. Taking our "Mask Off".
- f. Honesty, openness, and transparency can have negative connotations from a natural perspective.
- g. However, Being H.O.T. is not:
 - i. Weakness.
 - ii. Being taken advantage of.
- h. Biblically, being H.O.T. represents strength, shows trust, and allows advantage to our challenges.

VI. 3 Steps To be H.O.T.

- a. Be H.O.T. with God.
 - i. God can't fix what we fake.

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Psalms 139:1-3 (NLT)

1 O Lord, you have examined my heart
and know everything about me.

2 You know when I sit down or stand up.
You know my thoughts even when I'm far away.

3 You see me when I travel
and when I rest at home.

You know everything I do.

b. Be H.O.T. with Others

James 5:16 (NLT)

16 Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

- c. Our help can come from advice of other people.
- d. God helps with our challenges through other people.
- e. Being H.O.T. with others is more about being transparent about our difficulties than the inconsistencies of others.

Proverbs 13:10 (NIV)

10 Where there is strife, there is pride,
but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

- f. Everyone has a challenge in their life, but not everyone talks about them.
 - g. For example:
 - 1. Boss or co-workers at work.
 - 2. Consistency with ministry teams at church.
 - 3. Kids, finances, or marriages at home.
 - 4. Feeling lonely, depressed, fearful, or confused.
 - h. Everyone can make the choice to be H.O.T. and connect based on the common denominator of facing a challenge.
 - i. The root of being H.O.T. is being accountable and transparent to ask for help.
 - j. It still takes a level of being open, transparent to listen to advice from others even with right relationships.
 - k. God can work through the advice of people in order to bring us to the next level of our lives, reach personal goals and achieve divine callings in our lives.
 - l. Being H.O.T. in addition to sharing our challenges and listening to the right people is how God can take us higher.
 - i. Relationships can add, subtract, divide or multiply us.
 - ii. It is best to have relationships that add or multiply.
 - m. Our lives are the only things that we cannot see on a regular basis.
 - n. However, our lives mirror our friendships, which set the levels of achievement we can have.
 - i. We need people in our lives that look, talk, and think at different levels in order to grow.
 - ii. Right relationships help us to avoid having distorted images of ourselves.
 - o. People are often more interested in having friends they can honestly open up to and walk through life with than "friendly environments".
- VII. Start today to let God intervene and have victory.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (NIV)

9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.