

SHIFT
Session 2: Don't Be Shifted
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I. REVIEW

- "Shift": To move, change, transfer, reposition, or redirect something from one place, position, direction, or condition to another. The act of changing or being changed.
- The art of *shifting* refers to our ability to reposition ourselves in our thoughts or activity to stay our track with God's plan for our life.
- Satan's mission is to throw you off track, so you miss God's assignment for your life.
- Two primary methods used by Satan to shift us off course:
  - Personal thoughts
  - Words of others

II. SHIFTED

A. What Does It Mean to Be Shifted?

1. To be shifted means to be moved, repositioned, or transitioned from one position, condition, perspective, or state into another.

2. Satan makes it his business to attempt to shift your life!

B. Examples of Satan's Shift

1. Israel's failure to enter the Promised Land:

a. Scriptures:

- **Numbers 13:25-31**

  NKJV "And they returned from spying out the land after forty days. Now they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; **they brought back word** to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. Then **they told him**, and said: 'We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this *is* its fruit. Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land *are* strong; the cities *are* fortified *and* very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there. The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan.'

Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, 'Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.' **But the men who had gone up with him said**, 'We are not able to go up against the people, for they *are* stronger than we.' **And they gave the children of Israel a bad report** of the land which they had spied out, saying, 'The land through which we have gone as spies *is* a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it *are* men of *great* stature. There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.'"

- **Numbers 14:1-4**
  NKJV "So all the **congregation lifted up their voices** and cried, and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, 'If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! Why has the Lord brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?' So they said to one another, 'Let us select a leader and return to Egypt.'"

b. Up to this moment, all of Israel had been filled with anticipation and expectation of entering the Promised Land.
c. Everything shifted because of the words spoken by ten men.
d. The population at this time of Israel was between 2-3 million people.
   - The words of just ten men shifted the focus of more than two million people—from faith to fear, from obedience to disobedience, and from moving forward in God's promises to retreating backward in unbelief.
e. The words of these men, rooted in natural reasoning and focused on the size of the giants, shifted Israel's attention away from faith in God's promise and toward fear of what they saw in the natural.
f. Only two men – Caleb and Joshua – survived the wilderness over the next 40 years. They survived because they shifted their thinking away from **giants** to the greatness of their God.

PASTOR'S NOTE: *Watch out for thoughts of the mind and words from the voices of others that will shift your attention from the spiritual to the natural.*

2. Nazareth's shift of attention:

a. Scriptures:

- **Luke 4:14-29**

NKJV "Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to *the* poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to *the* captives And recovery of sight to *the* blind, *To* set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.' Then He closed the book, and gave *it* back to the attendant and sat down.

And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, 'Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.' **So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, 'Is this not Joseph's son?'** He said to them, 'You will surely say this proverb to Me, "Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in Your country."' Then He said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own country. But I tell you truly, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a great famine throughout all the land; but to none of them was Elijah sent except to Zarephath, *in the region* of Sidon, to a woman *who was* a widow. And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.'

So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff. Then passing through the midst of them, He went His way."

- **Luke 4:22**
  NKJV "So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, 'Is this not Joseph's son?'"

  NLT "Everyone spoke well of him and was amazed by the gracious words that came from his lips. 'How can this be?' they asked. 'Isn't this Joseph's son?'"

  CSB "They were all speaking well of him and were amazed by the gracious words that came from his mouth; yet they said, 'Isn't this Joseph's son?'"

PASTOR'S NOTE: *All were speaking well of Him—they were hearing Him, they were receiving Him—until someone said: "Isn't this Joseph's son?". Someone's words shifted everyone's thinking well of Him back to the natural—"He's just Joseph's son"!*

- *One statement can shift an opinion.*
- *One question can shift us out of the spiritual and back into the natural realm.*

b. There is no record of Jesus ever doing anything great in Nazareth. Why?
   - The words that were in the mouth of those in the synagogue that day were carried through the region, and those words shifted the region into a stronghold of unbelief.

c. Words that are used by the enemy to initiate a shift in us – may also trigger a shift that will last through many generations.

C. Words Can Shift Us in the Right Direction

1. The Samaritan woman:

a. Scriptures:

- **John 4:28-29**
  NKJV "The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ."

- **John 4:39-41**
  NKJV "And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did. So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days. And many more believed because of his own word…"

b. This entire city was shifted to faith in Christ by the words of one sinner woman.
c. We need to make sure we are putting words in our mouth that always shift people in the right direction!
d. It is dangerous to put words in our mouth that shift people away from spiritual things and back into the natural realm.

III. PRACTICAL THOUGHTS

- Words have the power to shift us away from God's will, purpose, and plan for our lives.
- Words have the power to shift our focus from the realm of the Spirit to the realm of the flesh.
- Words have the power to influence and shift the direction of an entire generation, community, or region.
- I must carefully guard the words I allow to influence my life, ensuring they are moving me in the direction of God's will and purpose.
- I must also be intentional with the words I speak, ensuring they influence and shift others in the direction of God's truth, promises, and purposes.