

WHEN DOING RIGHT MAKES THINGS HARDER

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN INTEGRITY COSTS MORE THAN SILENCE?



She was the principal of an elementary school committed to strengthening instruction, accountability, and student outcomes.



One day, while walking through the building, she encountered a teacher in the hallway speaking harshly to a very young child.

The interaction concerned her.



As principal, she intervened. Not to humiliate the teacher. Not to create conflict.

To protect the child.



Later, the child's parent became involved, and a conference was held to address what had occurred.



She believed her responsibility was clear: protect the student, address the concern professionally, and ensure appropriate treatment moving forward.



But something unexpected happened. *The intervention became the offense.*



Instead of the situation ending with the child's welfare at the center, the teacher believed the principal had failed to support her. The atmosphere began to change. Resistance increased. Interactions became more difficult.



What had begun as a straightforward leadership decision was becoming something much larger. And the principal faced an uncomfortable reality: *Doing the right thing had not produced peace. It had produced opposition.*

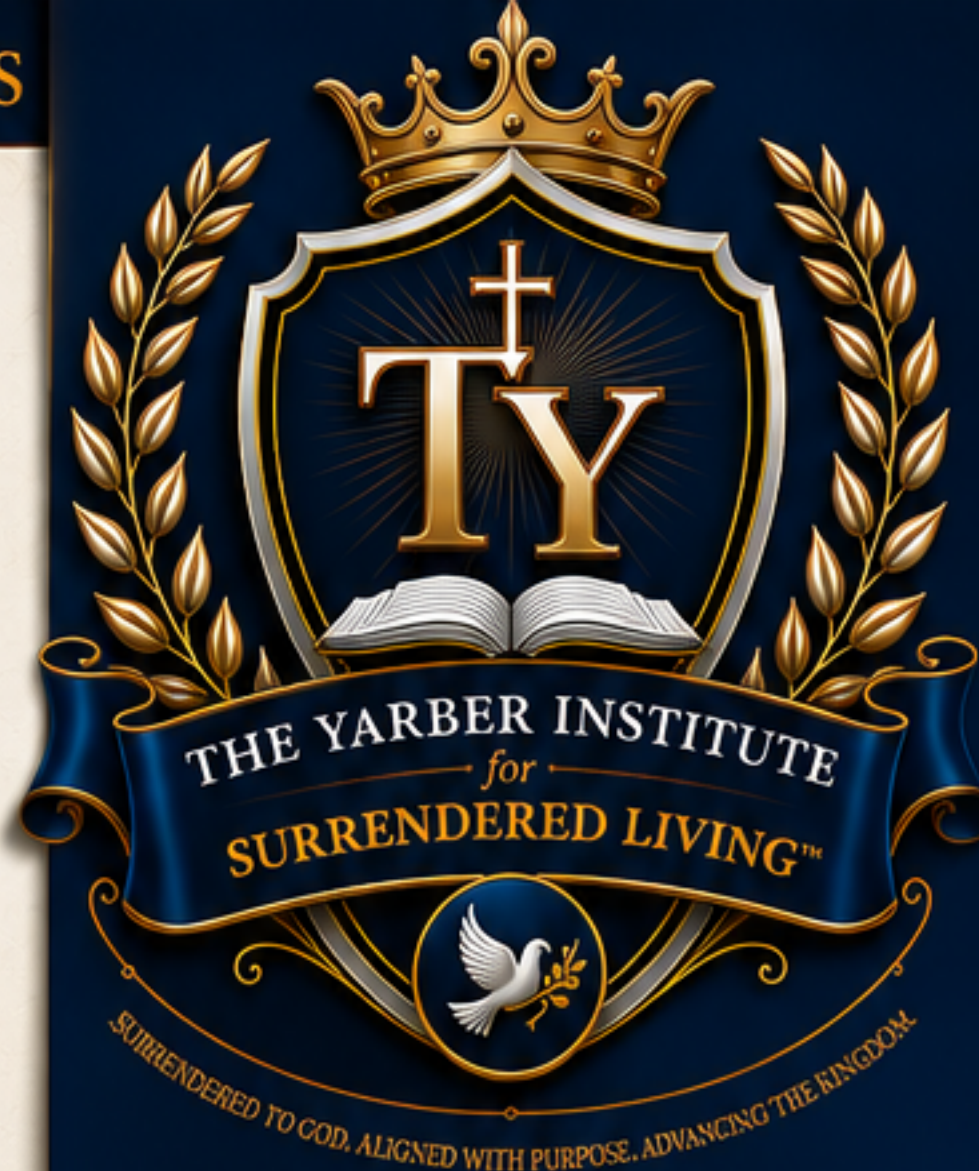


She could revisit the incident endlessly. *Should I have remained silent? Should I have handled it differently? Would things be easier now if I simply hadn't intervened?*



But beneath those questions was a more important one: *If protecting the vulnerable was right before the resistance began, did the resistance make it wrong afterward?*

Her answer had to be no. And that realization changed something in her.



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WHAT WAS GOD DOING?

Perhaps God wasn't merely showing her how others would respond to her leadership.

Perhaps He was revealing what her convictions were actually worth to her.

It's easy to believe in integrity when integrity costs nothing.

It's different when doing right affects relationships, reputation, comfort, or belonging.

Sometimes obedience doesn't immediately produce peace around you.

Sometimes it first establishes peace within you.



REFLECTION



Would I still make the same decision if I knew beforehand what it would cost me?



Am I questioning what was right—or simply reacting to the discomfort that followed it?



Have I mistaken the absence of opposition for evidence of God's approval?



If silence would make my life easier, what would my silence cost someone more vulnerable than me?



RIGHTEOUSNESS IS NOT PROVEN BY THE RESPONSE IT RECEIVES.

Sometimes doing right produces affirmation. Sometimes it produces resistance.

But resistance does not retroactively make righteousness wrong.

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WHEN THE BATTLEFIELD IS A SCHOOL BUILDING

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