

Old saying: strike while the iron is hot - blacksmithing term - there is a window of opportunity that is only open for a moment to form and hammer out the metal before it cools to the point of being immovable - stepping out of an incredible revival and moving into our summer outreach season - disciples we must strike while the irons hot.

In many ways the disciple you are today will shape the man of God you become down the road - This morning I want to encourage and challenge you to make the most of the opportunity you have in being a disciple.

Luke 9:57–62—57 Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, “Lord, I will follow You wherever You go.” **58** And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” **59** Then He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” **60** Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.” **61** And another also said, “Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.” **62** But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Luke 10:1–3—1 After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. **2** Then He said to them, “The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. **3** Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves.

I. MISTAKEN IDEAS ABOUT MINISTRY

A. Mistaken ideas about Need

1. Men can approach their discipleship from the position of wait and be told what to do

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- a) What ever pastor needs from me I will do / can you see the need, can you take the initiative and do it
- b) Men can be willing to go the other side of world to preach some day but today they can't get out of bed to be in prayer/ won't take the initiative and plan an outreach/ no supernatural dimension working in their life today

P. Greg - look around the church today- if the church depended on you alone for converts and people coming to church- how many people would be in church today

2. Someone else will do it

- a) The job of every disciple is to look for needs in the church and meet them - don't wait to be told
- b) This reveals our hearts “Oh that's Jons job he's the concert director, or worse Oh pastor can do that no problem.”

Acts 6:2–4—2 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. **3** Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; **4** but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

- c) Imagine seeing Pastor Greg driving a van for an impact team because no one else volunteered/ or running sound or lights at one80/ or preaching an altar call at one80 because no one else was available....

3. Title without function

- a) This is where many disciples can find themselves - “Jesus I will follow you” this is good / want to be called a disciple”

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- b) Like the idea of preaching in the concert, giving reports, someday having people call me pastor
- c) Jesus is being honest about what calling and destiny will cost you

- (1) What are some of the costs of being a disciple: time, comfort- living beneath your means, your dreams and aspirations.
- d) Desire without initiative is pointless - IOW if you have every intention of someday doing something for Jesus but never do then that desire is completely meaningless.

B. Mistaken ideas about Time

Luke 9:59 Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father."

1. The Enemies Alternatives - "Let me First"

- a) there are other things that are more important then what you require from my life Jesus
- b) Notice - these men don't actually tell Jesus no - neither do we /
 - (1) there will always be alternative- this is not a sin issue - no I would rather go and do drugs than follow Jesus - **good is always the enemy of the great**

Luke 9:60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God."

- (2) IF THE ENEMY CANNOT DERAIL YOUR DESTINY WITH ONE GREAT ACT OF SIN - HE WILL SETTLE FOR YOU TO SIMPLY NOT MAKE JESUS A PRIORITY - IN EITHER CASE IT HAS THE SAME EFFECT

2. Misplaced priorities

- a) What are your priorities in life - what has the highest value, occupies your time, takes your affections
- b) P. Jesse - Filling your calendar / between now and the first of October we have 25 Fridays that are open for you as disciples to do official outreaches- healing crusade, concert, rap battle, puppet show- what ever you can think of to draw people and preach to them ... currently we have 4 Fridays filled.

- 3. There is plenty of time
 - a) Listen we have limited time to make the most impact
 - b) Where will your discipleship be 10 years from now - how many people will you have won to Jesus and cemented them into the church in that time.

C. Mistaken ideas about Positions

- 1. The discipleship ladder/ this idea that so many guys are farther along then me - after they are all sent out then maybe then I will get my chance.

John 21:20–22—20 Peter turned around and saw behind them the disciple Jesus loved—the one who had leaned over to Jesus during supper and asked, "Lord, who will betray you?" 21 Peter asked Jesus, "What about him, Lord?" 22 Jesus replied, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? As for you, follow me."

- a) I've seen disciples die the death of comparison - why is he leading an outreach, why is he preaching in one80, how come he's a bible study leader and I'm not
- b) Jesus says as for **you** - follow me
- 2. When I'm closer to getting sent out then I will be fruitful, then I will take initiative
 - a) Problem is those mindsets don't change after you get launched out
 - b) **Ministry Magnifies** - you become a larger and more expensive version of yourself
 - (1) You guys have the most incredible opportunity here in Prescott - not for someday but today - your lives can make impact - where ever you are you don't have to wait.

II. THE BLESSING OF INITIATIVE

A. Being called by Jesus is the greatest honor and privilege you will ever have in life

Luke 10:1–3—1 After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. 2 Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

- 1. Jesus sends the disciples out to prepare the way for Jesus
 - a) What would they have to do - **evangelize Tell people who's coming**
 - b) Jesus sending out the 70 is no different than him sending us out today / you have opportunities to evangelize, to outreach, work with NC and minister with people in the church
- 2. You taking the initiative today will have an effect that extends into your future
 - a) What a privilege that Jesus would call you to accomplish His will
- 3. Your life becomes larger than where you are currently

Luke 10:17–18—**17** Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.” **18** And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

- B. Victories you have today will be reference points down the road
 - 1. You have an opportunity to develop a supernatural dimension in your ministry that will help you in the future
 - a) Fruitfulness, praying for the sick, words of knowledge, supernatural effectiveness
 - 2. The experience in ministry you gain today will go with you in the future God has planned for you
 - a) The only way your time here will be waste is if you do nothing with it
 - b) Being involved in ministry, learning to work with people, sometimes learning to work with difficult people
- C. God promotes men who take initiative
 - 1. Being sent out - this is a common phrase in our church culture - means a couple is launched into ministry
 - a) Either taking over a church or pioneering a brand new work
 - b) Jesus is showing us something here - as a disciple even though you still live in Prescott - you should be living and ordering your life as if you were sent out

Luke 10:2–3

2 Then He said to them, “The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. **3** Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves.

- 2. Disciples can wrestle with the issue of timing - when will I be asked to be sent out/ when will my time come
 - a) Powerful truth here - these 70 men were ready to be sent out / they had ordered their lives in such a way that enabled them to go
- 3. Taking the initiative
 - a) Focus on what you can do today - never mind what you’re not doing, never mind the titles you don’t have
 - b) We can all make the decision to act upon the calling Jesus placed on our lives