

PUTTING YOUR HANDS ON THE PLOW AND NOT LOOKING BACK

Luke 9:62

⁶² Jesus replied, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

INTRO: Do you remember the first time you drove? Whether a bike or a vehicle, you had both hands on the steering wheel. Once you learn how to drive, some stopped using both hands, others use their elbows; because they are either putting makeup or trying to drink their coffee and eat their donuts. We tend to start taking things to a lower expectation. Be it your marriage, family, employment, sports or relationships. Many, once we got it, it's in the bag, we relax and take things not as seriously as we used to.

In our relationship with God, as we embark in this new year, let us not fall into the trap of “I've got this under wrap” and keep on living the way we used to. Jesus used a daily illustration to make his point concerning the importance in following him.

I. WE PUT OUR HAND ON THE PLOW FOR DIFFERENT REASONS

1. ***Some because we come to Him – vs. 57 ⁴⁵⁷ As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.”***
 - 1) We come because we realize we are sinners
 - 2) We come because we realize we can't make it without Him
 - 3) We come because we realize He is our only hope
2. ***Some come because He invites them – Vs. 59 ⁴⁵⁹ He said to another man, “Follow me.” But the man replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”***
 - 1) There is a specific destiny for you
 - 2) He sees what nobody sees in you
 - 3) He knows you have insights

II. NEVER FORGETTING WHAT THIS COMMITMENT IS (the state or quality of being dedicated to a cause)

1. ***His call has priorities***
 - 1) We cannot postpone devoting ourselves to Him
 - (1) We cannot serve 2 masters – Mat. 6:24 ⁴²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money”
2. ***He becomes the compass (the range or scope of something) of our lives***
 - 1) We set our eyes on Him – Heb. 12:1 ⁴² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God”
 - (1) We can't set our eyes on spouse, family, work, church, pastor, Christians, etc.
3. ***It is not setting up treasures in this world – Mat. 6:19 ⁴¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.”***
 - 1) We are just passing through this world – 1 Pe 2:11 ⁴¹¹ Friends, this world is not your home, so don't make yourselves cozy in it. Don't indulge your ego at the expense of your soul”
 - (1) We will not be able to take with us what we have gained in this world

III. PUTTING YOUR HANDS ON THE PLOW

1. ***Never looking back***
 - 1) Yearning for the old life

- 2) Let us not make the mistake of Lot's wife – Gn. 19:26 ²⁶ But Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt"
 - (1) The warning of the angels – Gn. 19:15-17 ¹⁵ With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished." ¹⁶ When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the LORD was merciful to them. ¹⁷ As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, "Flee for your lives! Don't look back, and don't stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!"
 - (a) Get your wife and two daughters out of here
 - (b) Before it is too late
 - (c) You're caught in the punishment
 - (d) Lot's problem
 - (i) Hesitated, The Message: Dragging his feet – vs 16
 - (e) The Lord was merciful
 - (f) Flee for your lives
 - (g) Don't look back
 - (h) Don't stop anywhere
 - (i) Flee
 - (j) Or you will be swept away
2. ***Not looking to the right nor to the left – Dt. 5:32-33 ³² So be careful to do what the LORD your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left***
 - 1) It's a straight and narrow road – Mat. 7:14 ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."

THIS SERMON WAS GIVEN TO PATHWAY ASSEMBLY JAN. 19, 2020 BY PASTOR LAURO C. HERNANDEZ

CONCLUSION: