

SENDING 12 – FEEDING 5,000

THE STORY

Luke 9:1-17/ Matthew 14:13-21/ Mark 6:7-12 & 30-44/ John 6:1-14

A SECOND LOOK

Four Principles That Hugely Impact The Way We Do Ministry Here At North Coast

❶ **Christianity is a team sport**

Mark 6:7/ 3 John 9-10/ Hebrews 10:24-25/ Matthew 22:36-40/ John 13:35

- ✓ Ministry is not a sole proprietorship
- ✓ Spirituality is not a private relationship between “*me and my God*”
- ✓ When you read your Bible – read the word “you” as “you all”

❷ **Good starts don't guarantee happy endings**

John 12:5-6, 13:29 / 1 John 2:3-5 / Luke 8:13-14 & 1 Corinthians 10:1-6/ Matthew 28:19-20

- ✓ Judas' start was so impressive they appointed him treasurer

❸ **Even Jesus and the Apostles needed a break**

Matthew 11:28-30/ Matthew 23:4/ 1 Corinthians 12:14-27

- ✓ Not every need and opportunity has our name (*or your name*) on it

❹ **The guy who put up the “*No Room In The Inn*” sign is not the hero of the story**

Mark 6:31-34/ 1 Corinthians 9:19-27

- ✓ When God puts a need in front of you – do your best to meet it

Growth Group Homework

For the week of February 27, 2011

QUICK REVIEW: Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there a particular point, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you or raised a question?

MY STORY

1. We all have different capacities and abilities in how we balance the ebb and flow of life and serving others. What might be your indicators that you're pushing too hard and moving toward burnout?

What might be your indicators that you're not willing to sacrifice to respond to your God-given opportunities?

2. Have you ever felt like you missed a God-given opportunity to make a difference? If so, explain.

DIGGING DEEPER

This week, we're going to dig into the life of Moses and see how his life and experience reinforce what we learned about making a ministry impact.

1. This week, we heard that Christianity is a "team sport." How does Moses' situation in Exodus 18:13-23 demonstrate the importance and benefits of a team?

Exodus 18:13-23

The next day Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning till evening. [14] When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, "What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?"

[15] Moses answered him, "Because the people come to me to seek God's will. [16] Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God's decrees and laws."

[17] Moses' father-in-law replied, "What you are doing is not good. [18] You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone. [19] Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. You must be the people's representative before God and bring their disputes to him. [20] Teach them the decrees and laws, and show them the way to live and the duties they are to perform. [21] But select capable men from all the people--men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain--and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. [22] Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves. That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you. [23] If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied." [NIV]

When thinking about making a ministry impact, what might be the difference between thinking you're doing ministry as an individual as opposed to joining a ministry team to make a difference?

2. Most would think it would be no problem to respond to an opportunity that God has clearly spoken on. Yet, at the burning bush, Moses found a number of reasons to squander his opportunity. As you read the passages below, what do you relate to about Moses' response and the risks he saw he would encounter if he accepted the God-given opportunity he was being offered?

Exodus 3:1-4

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. [2] There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. [3] So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight--why the bush does not burn up."

[4] When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

And Moses said, "Here I am." [NIV]

Exodus 3:10-12

So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

[11] But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

[12] And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain." [NIV]

Exodus 3:13-15

Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

[14] God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.' "

[15] God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers--the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob--has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation. [NIV]

Exodus 4:1-6

Moses answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The Lord did not appear to you'?"

[2] Then the Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?"

"A staff," he replied.

[3] The LORD said, "Throw it on the ground." □

Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it.

[4] Then the LORD said to him, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail." □ So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand.

[5] "This," said the LORD, "is so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob has appeared to you." □

[6] Then the LORD said, "Put your hand inside your cloak." So Moses put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, the skin was leprous - it had become as white as snow. [NIV]

Exodus 4:10-12

Moses said to the Lord, "O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue."

[11] The Lord said to him, "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives

him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the Lord? [12] Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say." [NIV]

Exodus 4:13

But Moses said, "O Lord, please send someone else to do it." [NIV]

Are there any excuses you would add to this? Are there any you need to be careful of using?

3. 1 Corinthians 10:1-6 describes how the good start most of the Israelites enjoyed didn't end up with a happy ending. What does 1 Corinthians 10:6-10 say about how they got distracted and fell to temptation?

1 Corinthians 10:1-10

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. [2] They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. [3] They all ate the same spiritual food [4] and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. [5] Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert.

[6] Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. [7] Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry." [8] We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did--and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. [9] We should not test the Lord, as some of them did--and were killed by snakes. [10] And do not grumble, as some of them did--and were killed by the destroying angel. [NIV]

Can you think of any other distractions or temptations that we experience that you would add to this list? Any you need to be aware of?

TAKING IT HOME

As a result of this week's teaching, is there any realignment you'd like to consider to keep yourself refreshed or changes you need to make to respond to the needs around you?

Prayer Requests:

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