

## Keeping The First Things First

### Two Important Reminders

Matthew 16:18

Acts is **DESCRIPTIVE**, not **PRESCRIPTIVE**.

It's not the story of a **SUPERSTAR CHURCH** with **SUPERSTAR CHRISTIANS**.

### Today's Passage

Acts 6:1-7/ James 1:27/ Matthew 28:18-20

### How I Teach This Passage To Pastors

### How This Passage Applies To All Of Us

To **FULFILL** my calling, I have to **KNOW** my calling.

- Our greater mission is the **GREAT COMMISSION**.  
Matthew 28:19-20
- My specific assignment is to use my **SKILLS, RELATIONSHIPS** and **ROLES** in life to help advance the Great Commission.  
1 Corinthians 12:7-11/ Ephesians 5:21-6:4/ Ephesians 6:5-9 & 1 Peter 2:9-12

We can't **FULFILL** our assignment if we don't **LET GO** of what's not our assignment.  
Acts 6:2-4/ Luke 4:40-44

As long as we stay on **MISSION**, we'll **FULFILL** our mission.  
Proverbs 21:30-31/ Ephesians 2:10/ Philippians 1:6



## Life Group Study Questions

For the week of May 3, 2020

### QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

### MY STORY

1. This weekend Larry shared "to fulfill our calling, we must know our calling." When you think about the idea of knowing your calling, how do you respond?

- a. The concept of a calling confuses me.
- b. My calling seems very vague.
- c. I don't currently know my calling, but I want to discover what God has for me.
- d. I know my calling but struggle to prioritize it.
- e. I am living in the sweet spot of my calling.

2. This weekend we learned as Christians our "main thing" needs to fit under the umbrella of the Great Commission. When you think about your part in the Great Commission, what roles have you played in the past? What roles do you hope to play in the future?

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. This past weekend we were encouraged to keep first things first. In 2 Timothy 2:4-7, Paul is encouraging Timothy with a similar message. Read the passage below and make a note of anything that might stand out to you about what it means to keep first things first.

2 Timothy 2:4-7 *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>4</sup>No one serving as a SOLDIER gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. <sup>5</sup>Similarly, anyone who competes as an ATHLETE does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules. <sup>6</sup>The hardworking FARMER should be the first to receive a share of the crops. <sup>7</sup>Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

Let's think about the soldier, athlete and farmer:

The soldier has to stay focused in order to avoid getting entangled in civilian affairs. What are some examples of how a soldier could get entangled in a civilian life?

What are some of the things that might entangle you as you pursue your calling?

The athlete has to play by the rules in order to win the competition. What things might tempt you to take a shortcut or ignore the rules when it comes to accomplishing your God-given assignment?

The farmer has to be patient in order to be rewarded with his share of the crops. What things might cause you to become impatient and lose focus on your life's top priorities?

Can you think of someone you know who models the principle "keeping first things first?" What stands out to you about this person?

2. This weekend Larry defined our "*main thing*" as our God-given assignment in the body of Christ. Jesus modeled knowing and prioritizing His life around His "main thing" in Luke 4:40-44. Notice how Jesus chose not to heal people because He needed to move on to other towns to continue His mission.

Luke 4:40-44 *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>40</sup>At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. <sup>41</sup>Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah. <sup>42</sup>At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. <sup>43</sup>But he said, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent." <sup>44</sup>And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Can you think of a time when you had to say "no" to a good thing in order to say "yes" to your God-given assignment?

With shelter-in-place, schools closed, and our current work-from-home orders, how would you define your specific assignment (skills, relationships and roles) in the Great Commission at this time?

What are one or two of your current top priorities?

Have any of these priorities changed in the past several months? If so, how?

On a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 10 (strongly agree), how would you rate yourself with the following statements:

- In the past four weeks, my priorities are reflected in how I've spent my time.
- I've been focusing on my God-given priorities, and I feel like I have something to show for it.

## TAKING IT HOME

Which point from this weekend's message or Life Group study questions is most important for you to remember?

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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**RESOURCES DURING QUARANTINE:** Check out these links, also available on our homepage: [northcoastchurch.com](http://northcoastchurch.com).

- Need some extra help or are you looking to serve in the midst of this crisis? Visit the [COVID-19 Resources](#) page for a variety of options.
- Also, check out our [Daily Doses](#) to help encourage you while dealing with the potential health, financial and relational challenges COVID-19 may cause.
- Many of the current projects and needs change rapidly. For the most up-to-date information and ways to volunteer:

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