Your commitment to God in 2020

**Experience a deeper commitment to God**

**Monday**

Read Matthew 20:1-16

* ***Journalize*** *the growth in your commitment to God you have experienced since you first said ‘yes’ to Him.*

**Tuesday**

Read 2 Corinthians 8

* *To be committed to Jesus is to be committed to His body.* ***Pray*** *about the commitment you want to make to God in 2020.*

**Wednesday**

Read Matthew 22:37-40

* ***Memorize*** *this scripture.*

**Thursday**

Read Luke 10:25-37

* ***Journalize*** *who you need to be a ‘neighbor’ to. How do you plan to contribute value to their life?*

**Friday**

Read Matthew 25:31-46

* *If you genuinely love God you are going to actively show love to people. Stop thinking about your past failures and* ***show Jesus’ love*** *to someone today.*

Matthew 20

**20**“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. **2**He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

**3**“About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. **4**He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ **5**So they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. **6**About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’

**7**“‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.

“He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

**8**“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

**9**“The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. **10**So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. **11**When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. **12**‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

**13**“But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? **14**Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. **15**Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

**16**“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Matthew 20

**20**“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner (a man who owns some land)

Lesson from how God operates, the ways of God.

“His ways are higher than our ways.”

The landowner represents God

who went out early in the morning

The day represents the life span of the worker, early in a person’s life

to hire workers

Workers - Potential Christians, disciples, Kingdom contributors, those whose focus is Kingdom work

God is looking to fill our lives with purpose and we are looking for purpose. It is a match made in heaven.

How much value do you contribute to your world and to your church every day?

Coach Wooden - most successful coach of all times:

* won 12 NCAA basketball championships
* He coached legends like Kareem
Abdul-Jabbar and Bill Walton
* 88 game winning streak

What did he refer to himself as? A teacher

He cared deeply about his players

He poured into thousands of lives the fundamentals of hard work, discipline, patience and the selflessness of teamwork.

He was an example of what a good man should be.

An old farmer on a small country road prayed that God would use him. Countless cars would break down in front of his farm and stop and ask to make a call. While they waited for a ride, he would have them sit down on his worn, red couch and he would lead them to Jesus.

One of our members as she was getting her hair done recently took the time to share who Christ is with her hair dresser and gave her a card.

How much value do you contribute to your world and your church every day?

Workers - Potential Christians, disciples, Kingdom contributors, those whose focus is Kingdom work

for his vineyard.

Vineyard - the world, your world

**2**He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day (their life span) and sent them into his vineyard.

You’ve got one life, one chance, one shot

Denarius equated to a day’s worth of pay - the reward of eternal life

Paraphrased: God agreed to give eternal life to people who accepted him early in their lives (when they were a child), and they spent the rest of their lives contributing in their world.

**3**“About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing.

The folks went to where they could be hired. They were searching, they were seeking, they were thirsty, they reached the end of themselves. They made themselves available.

God went looking for them and found them.

2 Chronicles 16:9 New International Version (NIV)

**9**For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.

9 o’clock - still early, say when people encounter Jesus as teenagers

**4**He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ **5**So they went.

“He went out again about noon

When people are in their 20s and 30s

and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing.

When people are in their 40s and 50s

**6**About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’ **7**“‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.

“He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

When people are in their 60s and 70s and at the very end of their lives.

BTY….I believe heaven is going to be full of people who gave their heart to God when they were dying.

Story of an executive who gave his heart to God the night he died.

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Romans 6:23

**23**For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in[a] Christ Jesus our Lord.

**8**“When evening came (the end of the life of these people), the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

**9**“The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. **10**So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. **11**When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. **12**‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

**13**“But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? **14**Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. **15**Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

**16**“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

(My attitude: I am happy that God graciously extends eternal life to everyone, no matter what stage of life they are in!)

Matthew Henry given some interesting conclusions to this statement, “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

1. God is a debtor to no man.
2. Many who begin last, and promise little for relationship with God (as Matthew Henry puts it “religion”), sometimes, by the blessing of God, arrive at a great deal of knowledge, grace and usefulness. (sometimes a person who have been saved a short period of time sadly accomplishes more for the kingdom than some one who has know Jesus most of their lives)
3. The recompense of reward given to the saints of God will not be according to the time of their conversion.

**But** there is a common theme throughout this parable that describes aspects of the Kingdom of Heaven that I would like to focus on:

Commitment

The workers in the early morning, morning, noon, afternoon and evening offered themselves and committed their efforts, time and emotion to the man who owned the land.

God owns the world and He owns you. Whether late or early in life you need to make a commitment to God!

Commitment is made up of two virtues: faithfulness and willingness

Faithfulness

* Full of faith
* Faith without works is dead - Faith means action
* Practically it means you can be relied on
* Your consistent faithfulness makes other people confident in you

Willingness

* Generally your answer is ‘yes’
* Connotation of servanthood
* Contributor, not a consumer
* You give value to those around you

Commitment is only offered when you have the desire to do so. If you don’t want to commit, you won’t

Pray for more desire and then you will commit yourself more to God!

Let me explain something…

Here’s another thought…

You CANNOT be fully committed to God without fully committing yourself to His body.

Let me prove that to you from scripture first and then prove it to you practically.

2 Corinthians 8:5

5 And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.

Matthew 22:37-40

Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

1 Corinthians 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Example: I commit myself to my boss but not to my company

Example: I commit myself to my spouse but not to my family

Example: When kids don’t show up to any type of team practice (e.g. sports, band, etc.) they’re letting down their team.

So in 2020, we must grow in commitment to God, which includes a greater commitment to His body.

Just a matter of example, Tina and I have committed ourselves to this church as volunteer pastors. We have done this for two reasons:

1. God told us (called us)
2. We want to do it (He put the desire in us and our kids)

God is calling each of us to the same thing, that is to make a deeper commitment to Him in 2020.

I would like each of you to thoughtfully write down what what greater commitment you would like to make to Jesus, His body, and your world.

Examples:

* I’d like to read my Bible at least 15 minutes 5 days a week
* I would like to start using the gift that God has given me in this church body
* I would like to start participating in discipleship on Wednesday nights
* I am going to start praying for my loved ones every week
* I am going to start serving someone who is homebound by visiting and encouraging them
* I am going to speak up at work and start telling people about who Jesus is and what He does