

KEEPING MY GODLY HANDS TO THE PLOW

Series: Spiritual Bootcamp

March 28, 2021 — Palm Sunday

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1. Read both versions of Luke 9:26 as well as Luke 18:8 from your sermon notes. When the pressures is on you, are you persistent to be true and faithful to Christ or do you give into fear or peer pressure?
2. Read Hebrews 11:6 and Romans 8:8 from your sermon notes under point #1 under the heading, "*Reasons I Should Keep My Godly Hands To the Plow.*" How pleased do you think God is with your faith? Why?
3. Read Philippians 3:14 and Proverbs 28:20 from your sermon notes under point #2 under the heading, "*Reasons I Should Keep My Godly Hands To the Plow.*" How does it encourage you and make you feel that God is going to reward you for keeping your godly hands to the plow?
4. Read 1 Chronicles 16:9, Acts 1:8, Romans 8:37 and 1 John 5:4-5 from your sermon outline under point #3 under the heading, "*Reasons I Should Keep My Godly Hands To the Plow.*"
 - a. The word translated as "power" in Acts 1:8 is the Greek New Testament word [δύναμις; dunamis]. It is where we get our English "dynamite." That is what Jimmy Walker on the TV show, Good Times, said: "dy-no-mite." have you ever felt this kind of "dynamite" power in your life? If so when, if not, why?
 - b. Do you feel like a "conquerer" or the "conquered?" What would it take for your life to reflect Romans 8:37?
5. There are many phonies and fakes in the world and even in the Christian faith.
 - a. Read the words of Jesus in Matthew 7:21 under point #4 under the heading, "*Reasons I Should Keep My Godly Hands To the Plow.*" Jesus said that only those who are obedient to do His Father's will. Many people are church goers, but they are not genuine Christ followers. How can you tell the difference and which would you say people perceive you to be? Why?
 - b. Read Proverbs 20:6 under point #4 under the heading, "*Reasons I Should Keep My Godly Hands To the Plow.*" Why do you think it is hard to find people who are undeniably faithful to God?
 - c. Read Matthew 25:31-33, 41 from your sermon notes under point #4 under the heading, "*Reasons I Should Keep My Godly Hands To the Plow.*" In Matthew 25:23-40, Jesus gives a comparison between the "sheep" He allows in heaven and the "goats" who are sent to hell. What should be done to move more of the "goats" to the "sheep" side and what should be your part in this?
6. Read Luke 16:10a, Luke 16:10b and Luke 16:12 from your sermon notes under point #1 under the heading, "*How Do I Keep My Godly Hands To The Plow?*" Many people, even "Christians," believe that what you do in your private life does not affect your public life.
 - a. Many people, even "Christians," believe that what you do in your private life does not affect your public life. What do you think? Does your private life reflect your public life? Why or why not?
 - b. It has been reported that 42.7% of all inventory loss is caused by employee theft. That is an annual loss of \$50 billion. In fact 1/3 of all bankruptcies in the U.S. are caused by employee theft. This breaks down to 52% of employee theft is office supplies (ex., pens, pencils, paper using the company printer for personal items); 30% theft is time (not working when paid to be working); 18% is theft of corporate intelligence; and 32% is theft of products and services.¹ Have you ever seen this happen? Have you ever done this? Why?
 - c. Many people tell what they call "little white lies." Do you ever tell "little white lies" or exaggerate the truth? Has there ever been any repercussions for you doing this? Explain.
 - d. How can you be more honest in the little things?
7. Read Mark 10:45 from your sermon notes under point #2 under the heading, "*How Do I Keep My Godly Hands To The Plow?*" Jesus said He came to serve, not be served. He was generous with His love, compassion, forgiveness, talents, time, skills, and abilities. How does your life compare to Jesus' life in this?
 - a. S.H.A.P.E. is Southside's class 301 to help you understand how to be generous with the time, talents, skills and abilities in a focused way. If you have taken Class 301, what did you learn and apply from it?
 - b. If you have not taken Class 301, why? What would motivate you to take it?
 - c. Read 1 Peter 4:10 and 1 Corinthians 12:6 from your sermon notes under point #2 under the heading, "*How Do I Keep My Godly Hands To The Plow?*" God has gifted you for His glory and for helping others in the church. Are you currently doing this? If so, where? If not, why?
 - d. Read Luke 12:47, 48b from your sermon notes under point #2 under the heading, "*How Do I Keep My Godly Hands To The Plow?*" What does this passage by Jesus say to you about your life?
 - e. Read Matthew 25:28-30 from your sermon notes under point #2 under the heading, "*How Do I Keep My Godly Hands To The Plow?*" What does passage say to you personally? What are you doing with what God has given you for His glory and the benefit of others in the church?
8. Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 from your sermon outline under point #3 under the heading, "*How Do I Keep My Godly Hands To The Plow?*" An oak tree is just an acorn that refused to give up.
 - a. Have you ever just quit on something or gave up on something? Why? What did you learn?
 - b. In our culture we primarily evaluate people on what they do, not on who they are becoming. We use a means to measure their career, not their character. God allows resistance at times as you are pushing your spiritual

¹<https://comparecamp.com/employee-theft-statistics/>.

plow. How do you typically respond to such resistance? Do you quit? Do you resist? Do you push through that wall? What are some examples of this in your life?

- c. Read John 16:33, Matthew 26:39 and Galatians 6:9 from your sermon notes under point #3 under the heading, *“How Do I Keep My Godly Hands To The Plow?”* In the Garden of Gethsemane on the night He would be betrayed, Jesus went there to pray about his soon to be arrest, scourging, crucifixion and death. He was in a battle not only about His life and soul, but ours as well. The Bible says in Luke 22:44 that Jesus was under such stress emotionally, physically, spiritually and psychologically, that He bled through the pores of His skin. There is a rare medical condition like this called hematomatosis. This is when stress causes smaller capillaries just under the skin to rupture and you bleed what is called “blood sweat.” Jesus chose to push through that stress of resistance. What is it you need to push through for Him?
9. The devil is a liar and he has been one since his creation. We face three primary battles in this life: the battle around us — our culture and peers trying to keep us from being godly and holy; the battle against us — this is the devil and his demons; and third, the battle inside of us. We are our worst on enemy. We lie to ourselves more than we lie to anyone else.
 - a. When we look at others and how their lives seemed to be so blessed and joyful, it is easy in our comparison to feel that God has short-changed us for the task He wants us to keep plowing. Read Philippians 4:19 and Psalm 34:10 from your sermon notes under point #4 under the heading, *“How Do I Keep My Godly Hands To The Plow?”* Have you ever felt or feel now that God has not equipped you with what He wants you to do? Why? Explain.
 - b. Read Jesus words in Matthew 7:7-8 from point #4 under the heading, *“How Do I Keep My Godly Hands To The Plow?”* Jesus said that the key to defeating this lie of the devil is to *“keep on asking, to keep on seeking and to keep on knocking.”* How would you evaluate your own prayer life? Are your prayers limited to “grace” at meal times? Or when tragedy strikes? Jesus has promised His provision to help you keep on on spiritually plowing, but some of this provision comes from prayer. How would God describe your personal prayer life? What does this say to you? What do you need to do differently?
 - c. Read Genesis 3:5 from your sermon notes under point #4 under the heading, *“How Do I Keep My Godly Hands To The Plow?”* The serpent (devil) convinced Adam and Eve that God holding back on them. Why do you think they fell for his lie rather than trust God who had created them, put them in a perfect Paradise and spent time with them every day in the cool of the evening?
 - d. Read Luke 12:31 as well as the explanation of the Greek New Testament word translated as “kingdom.” from your sermon notes under point #4 under the heading, *“How Do I Keep My Godly Hands To The Plow?”* Is Christ’s rule, reign and lordship in every area of your life? If you say, “yes,” what is the proof?
 - i. Read Philippians 2:13 as well as the explanation of the words translated as “working” and “power” from your sermon notes under sub-point #4-a under the heading, *“Here Is What God Has Promised To Do.”* Where in your life do you need God to work in your, give you power, and to energize you?
 - ii. Read Exodus 14:11-12, 28, Matthew 19:26 and Jeremiah 21:27 from your sermon notes under sub-point #4-b under the heading, *“Here Is What God Has Promised To Do.”* Where in your life do you feel your back is against wall and you are stuck between a rock and a hard place? What is God saying to you from these Scripture passages?
 - iii. Read Jeremiah 29:10-14 from your sermon notes under sub-point 4-c. We live in a world where God’s timing rarely aligns with our timing. How can you better humbling live with this reality?
10. Sharing your faith in Christ is something we Christians are to do.
 - a. Read Matthew 19:10, Matthew 28:19 and 1 Peter 3:15-16 from your sermon notes under point #5 under the heading, *“How Do I Keep My Godly Hands To The Plow?”* How committed are you in sharing your faith with unbelievers who are co-workers, fellow students, neighbors, and etc.?
 - b. Read Luke 5:20, 24b-25 from your sermon notes under point #5 under the heading, *“How Do I Keep My Godly Hands To The Plow?”* Jesus healed this paralyzed man because of the faith of his friends. They were blessed because they did what it took to get their paralyzed friend to Jesus. What are you doing to get your spiritually paralyzed friends to Jesus? What are you allowing to keep you from getting your spiritually paralyzed friends to Jesus?
11. Read 2 Timothy 2:2 from your sermon notes under point #6 under the heading, *“How Do I Keep My Godly Hands To The Plow?”*
 - a. Many, if not most Christians never personally disciple anyone. They either do not do this because of ignorance, or fears or what they perceive is a lack of qualifications. Discipling has nothing to do with how old you are or how long you have been a Christian. It’s all about being open to God using you to help another believer who is younger in the faith than you to grow in their faith. What are your excuses fo not discipling another believer?
 - b. Read Luke 22:31-32 from your sermon notes under point #6 under the heading, *“How Do I Keep My Godly Hands To The Plow?”* Of all the people God could have chosen to start the church, He chose the biggest failure — Peter. What does this say to you?
 - c. God doesn’t want you to waste your failures, your fears and your frustrations. God doesn’t want you to waste your hang-ups, your hurts and your habits. He wants you to use them to help to mature the faith in others. How could you do that?
 - d. Who is it you could start mentoring? Start discipling?