



SERMON SINGLES

HIGHER AIM

Begin Again

Matthew 28

INTRODUCTION

Our world has gone through the wringer the last couple of years. It seems as though life as we knew it has ended. But with endings come new beginnings, and that's what we're going to talk about today. I firmly believe God wants us to begin again when it comes to the way we do ministry and when it comes to the way we live our lives as followers of Jesus. In this message, we're going to take a look at some different examples in Scripture that we can follow to begin again personally in our lives as individuals and collectively as the church body.

NOTES

KEY POINTS

1. Begin Again By Choosing To Honor God

There are many ways we can honor God and therefore begin again in our lives. Here are a few examples:

- We honor God by giving sacrificially.
- We honor God by serving graciously.
- We honor God by seeking Him.

2. Begin Again By Believing The Promises Of God

Have you ever wondered why it's sometimes difficult to believe the promises of God? Consider these answers:

- The promises of God don't fit our perceived model of living.
- The promises of God are found in the Word of God, and many of us don't read them, therefore we don't know any.
- The promises of God are based upon His character; if we don't have a vibrant relationship with Him, we aren't even looking for His promises.
- The promises of God are for the people of God to walk by faith; many of us, like the disciples, want to see it first before we believe, just like Thomas.

3. Begin Again By Obeying God

Obey God first above all things. Your commitment and your loyalty should be to the Word of God, not to the culture of our day, nor to the edicts that come from any outside political force. You are to be committed to obeying God and doing what His Word says.

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4. Begin Again In Fellowship

Do you realize that who you hang around makes all the difference? As believers, we need to be in relationship with other believers. Alcoholics Anonymous is a great resource for people who need encouragement, people who are struggling in the area of chemical dependency. The church is for "sinoholics." Because of that, we need to be with each other and encourage one another. That is God's plan. I don't know about you, but I need you in my life. You need me in your life. Fortunately, we need each other. That's how we begin again, in fellowship.

If you are not connected in fellowship, begin again today. Choose to begin again with Jesus. The way Jesus wants you to begin again is by trusting Him and honoring Him and believing His Word. Also, do this by obeying and being in fellowship.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How do you feel about new beginnings? Do you enjoy them, or do you dread them? Why?
2. Which one of God's promises in Scripture carries a special weight or meaning in your life? Why is that the case?
3. Are you a part of a small group or fellowship of believers? If not, what's keeping you from being in this kind of fellowship?
