

Just Give Part 7: "Stewarding our Talent" (3-18-2018)

This series: "Just Give" An act of surrender, that enables us to become Generous Givers, who learn to Steward well all we have been giving by our Father the King!

Introduction: We are called to be disciples, God wants us to steward our unique talents for his kingdom purposes.

Matthew 4:18-20 (ESV)

(18) While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. (19) And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (20) Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

3 elements of being a disciple: Follow, Change, Mission

1) Follow

Tell the story from Luke 5:1-11 (cast out into the deep – Peter's response: get away from me for I am a sinful man)

Peter was a pro at fishing, and his response to Jesus is – I'm not worthy!

Olympic skier half pipe Video: Before service, pre-load the video past the commercials, then pause until it's time. Play video to the 1:05 mark.

http://www.nbcolympics.com/news/how-freeskier-elizabeth-swaney-made-it-olympics-simple-halfpipe-run?utm_tags=oly1001

This is my favorite Olympic skier – Elizabeth Swaney from Southern California, as an athlete from Hungary

Jesus invites us - "Follow me"

- Peter felt un-worthy, and often we can too. But Jesus invites us all the same.

Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Notes:

- No Fear – go for it!
- Remember: the invitation to follow Jesus means that we aren't alone; He is with us!
- Don't limit yourself and feel that you don't qualify. And don't be afraid to fail.

Which leads to our 2nd point . . .

2) Change

Back to Mathew 4:19 . . .

Matthew 4:19 (ESV)

"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Notes: "I will make you" – Jesus changes us (as we follow Him)

Change happens – slowly, instantly, gradually, in fits & starts

How does this change happen? Obey and/or Repent

Matthew 4:17 (ESV)

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Note: Kingdom Living - Where what the King wills, is what happens. So either I obey and follow, or I repent and return.

- Failure is an option! Because it's an opportunity for growth
- Must have Courage & Humility
 - Courage w/out Humility leads to **Pride**
 - Humility w/out Courage leads to **Cowardice**

3) Mission

"Fishers of men" – There are lots of other people that Jesus invites to follow, change, & be on mission

1 Peter 4:10-11 (ESV)

(10) As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: (11) whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Notes:

You are called to be part of that invitation!

Whatever else you may be doing in life, your mission with Jesus is people!

This gives value & purpose to even the most mundane . . . You are making disciples, what will they look like?

3 things to consider when on mission with Jesus . . .

- Identify your Talents
 - Natural Ability (Remember: Ephesians 2:10 – you are uniquely made!)
 - Acquired Skills (Exodus 31:3-5 as an example – skilled craftsman)
 - Spiritual Gifts (Romans 8 & 12, 1 Corinthians 12-14)

- Focus your Talents
 - Passions – what makes you tick, what do you enjoy, what do you deeply care about.
 - People – who is around you? Have some categories, from the obvious to the hidden
 - Place – there are specific people in your area of influence that only you can reach

- Wisely steward your Talents
 - Prioritize – Lot's of good things, but what is the right thing right now
 - Practice – hone your skills, use them, sharpen them

Conclusion: Steward your God given talent for His Kingdom purposes by . . .

Following Jesus (don't let fear hold you back!)

Changed by Jesus (walk in Courage and Humility by obeying & repenting)

On Mission with Jesus (Identify, Focus, and be Wise)