



NOW

Playing Around With Commitment | Jordan Hansen

Ruth 1:16-17

I thought about staying home today to watch the Seahawks. But then i thought, "I can't do that. I'M COMMITTED!"

Many of us have made our games...LIFE...and we've turned life into games. →Users = Kevin
Quote→Everybody wants community...marriage...organizations that give us some sort of benefit...the problem is, we've become USERS. And when we are all users...there is nothing left to take...life can be a desert. →Is. 43:6

Everybody wants community, but few people are willing to pay the cost of cultivating the kind of community that humanity truly craves...that WE crave. Why? A life giving community comes at a high price. Do we contribute more than we take? That kind of culture begins with a sacrificial commitment to something bigger than each of us so that we CAN reap what we sow.

→**How can we build a community that will give life, not take it?**

"Once upon a time..." - Ruth 1: We need the kind of community that will shield us from life's Kevins...& catastrophes!

Ruth 1:16: 16 But Ruth replied, "Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. 17 Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!"

Everything worth anything starts with commitment. →Non commitment IS commitment...to nothing...our to ME.

- Orpah made a commitment...to go home. →But Ruth made a commitment to Naomi...& to GOD.
- Prayer: Lord, I choose to follow YOU. Forgive me and help me follow YOU!
- **Together We Build & NOW** →Future! →Let's commit to Christ & future gen's like previous gen's committed to us.

→TRANSITION: I don't want to commit bc...i know it will cost me something.

We fear commitment because we know it will cost us. →FOMO →Jesus: Don't look back! - Lk. 9:57-62

- Ruth gives up...her homeland, culture, her family. →She could gain what God had for her...in MOAB.
- Jesus GAVE UP everything...so we could GAIN salvation, forgiveness of sins, adoption into God's family.
- We MUST be a church that is FOCUSED on what we are GAINING! →DISNEY: A Kingdom awaits...
- Yes...we are paying the price of marriages restored...babies being dedicated...lives being TRANSFORMED!!
- The cost? Marriage. Kids. Career. What did we "give up" for what we gained? →Denzel = Hearst w/a U-Haul?

→TRANSITION: Here is the MAJOR problem with not committing...the cost will be far greater than we will ever know.

Commitment cultivates the kind of community we crave. → Marriage. Kids. Career. What did we "GAIN?"

- Ruth & Naomi GAINED redemption...LEGACY! → BP Graphic → Obed, Jesse, David...Jesus!
- APPLY: Commit to BEING present. Commit to DOING: Giving & Serving
- God wants us to be the kind of people that GAIN through our commitment to GIVE up.
- Circle Up → Prayer: Lord, honor our commitment to each other & help us build the kind of community that honors you and brings LIFE to Orange County!"

→ TRANSITION: Friends, WE ARE THE CHURCH. And if God brings life to OC through MC, it will happen THROUGH US.

→ **Life giving communities are built on commitment!**

TALK ABOUT IT - Questions to GROW through with family, friends, & myself.

1. What do I want out of a church community? What is important to me?
2. What comes to my mind when I hear the word, "commitment?"
3. How is commitment tied to the idea of a life giving community?
4. Why does anything worth anything in this world require commitment to thrive?
5. **PRAYER:** "Father, help me to commit to the things and people that matter in this world!"

QUOTES / SONGS:

"Kevin, a 24-year-old recent college graduate from Denver, wants to get married someday and is "almost 100% positive" that he will. But not soon, he says, "because I am not done being stupid yet. I still want to go out and have sex with a million girls." He believes that he's figured out how to do that:

"Girls are easier to mislead than guys just by lying or just not really caring. If you know what girls want, then you know you should not give that to them until the proper time. If you do that strategically, then you can really have anything you want...whether it's a relationship, sex, or whatever. You have the control." - "Cheap Sex and the Decline of Marriage"

"Without commitment, nothing happens." - TD Jakes

"There are only two options regarding commitment; either you're in or you're out." - Coach Pat Riley

"It is possible to commit no mistakes and still lose. That is not a weakness; that is life." - Capt. Jean Luc Picard

"Love means many things," he said. "It means giving. It means sharing. It means forgiving. It means understanding. It means being patient. It means learning. And you must always consider the other side, the other person. You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving ... I agree with Abraham Lincoln. He once said that the best thing a man can do for his children is to love their mother."

"Life is a united effort of many. My life has been inspired from my youthful days in high school, through university, and into my coaching career by one person — my late wife, Nellie. Together we survived many trials, many misunderstandings, many separations; together for over 52 years, we weathered the Great Depression of the '30s with few material possessions and shared in the innumerable joys, fears, such as World War II, a miscarriage, and disappointments that cross every life. Whatever problems arose — and there were many in the life of a teacher/coach — Nellie was always beside me ..." — John Wooden, Steve Jamison's book 'Wooden: A Lifetime of Observations and Reflections On and Off the Court,'

A Chicken and a Pig lived on a farm. The farmer was very good to them and they both wanted to do something good for him. One day the chicken approached the pig and said, "I have a great idea for something we can do for the farmer! Would you like to help?"

The pig, quite intrigued by this, said, "of course! What is it that you propose?"

The chicken knew how much the farmer enjoyed a good healthy breakfast. He also knew how little time the farmer had to make a good breakfast. "I think the farmer would be very happy if we made him breakfast."

The pig thought about this. While not as close to the farmer, he too knew of the farmer's love for a good breakfast. "I'd be happy to help you make breakfast for the farmer! What do you suggest we make?"

The chicken, understanding that he had little else to offer suggested, "I could provide some eggs."

The pig knew the farmer might want more, "That's a fine start. What else should we make?"

The chicken looked around...scratched his head...then said, "ham? The farmer loves ham and eggs!"

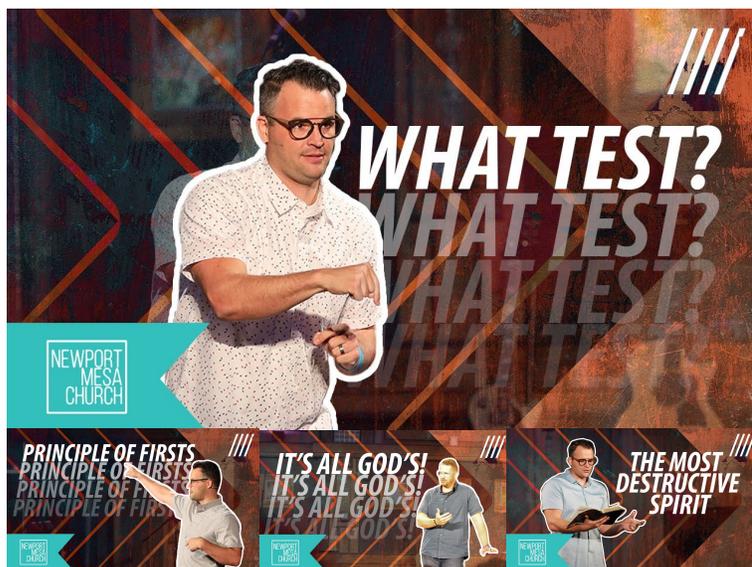
The pig, very mindful of what this implied, said, "that's fine, but while you're making a contribution I'm making a real commitment!"

LINKS / RESOURCES:

- **Article:** "Real Stats: Do Men Hate Church" <https://preachitheatit.org/articles/detail/real-stats-do-men-hate-church/>
- **Article:** "Cheap Sex and the Decline of Marriage" <https://www.wsj.com/articles/cheap-sex-and-the-decline-of-marriage-1506690454>
- **Bible Project Book Intro:** "Ruth"



- **Sermon Series:** "The Blessed Life" <https://mesa.church/media/series/hdcjy2m/the-blessed-life>



- **Part 5/5 "Its About the Heart" :** <https://mesa.church/media/z42djq/it-s-about-the-heart>

SCRIPTURES: New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

Proverbs 16:3 - Commit your actions to the Lord, and your plans will succeed.

Psalms 37:5 - Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you.

Luke 9:57-62 - 57 As they were walking along, someone said to Jesus, "I will follow you wherever you go."

58 But Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head."

59 He said to another person, "Come, follow me."

The man agreed, but he said, "Lord, first let me return home and bury my father."

60 But Jesus told him, "Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead! Your duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God."

61 Another said, "Yes, Lord, I will follow you, but first let me say good-bye to my family."

62 But Jesus told him, "Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God."

John 21:18-23 - 18 "I tell you the truth, when you were young, you were able to do as you liked; you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted to go. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will dress you and take you where you don't want to go." 19 Jesus said this to let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God. Then Jesus told him,

"Follow me."

20 Peter turned around and saw behind them the disciple Jesus loved—the one who had leaned over to Jesus during supper and asked, "Lord, who will betray you?" 21 Peter asked Jesus, "What about him, Lord?"

22 Jesus replied, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? As for you, follow me."

23 So the rumor spread among the community of believers that this disciple wouldn't die. But that isn't what Jesus said at all. He only said, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?"

MESA VISION LINKS:

- Who is Mesa? Click: [ID.Mission.Vision](#)
- What is the vision of Mesa Church? Click: [Vision Sermons / Messages](#)
- Is there anything I can watch to be inspired? Click: [Grow Conference Main Sessions](#)

NEXTS STEPS:

- [Fill Out an Online Connect Card](#)
- [Join a Small Group](#)
- [Get Water Baptized](#)
- [Become a Partner of Mesa Church](#)
- [Join a Dream Team to Serve on Sundays](#)
- [Give to what God is doing](#)
- [Submit a Prayer Request](#)
- [Learn More About Fasting](#)
- [Share a testimony or story of God working in my life.](#)

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