

PUTTING YOUR HAND TO THE PLOW

Pastor Steve Odera

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Discipleship

Commitment – Training – Role Modeling





Luke 9:62

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

Introduction



THREE DISCIPLES:



PHYSICAL
COMFORTS OF LIFE

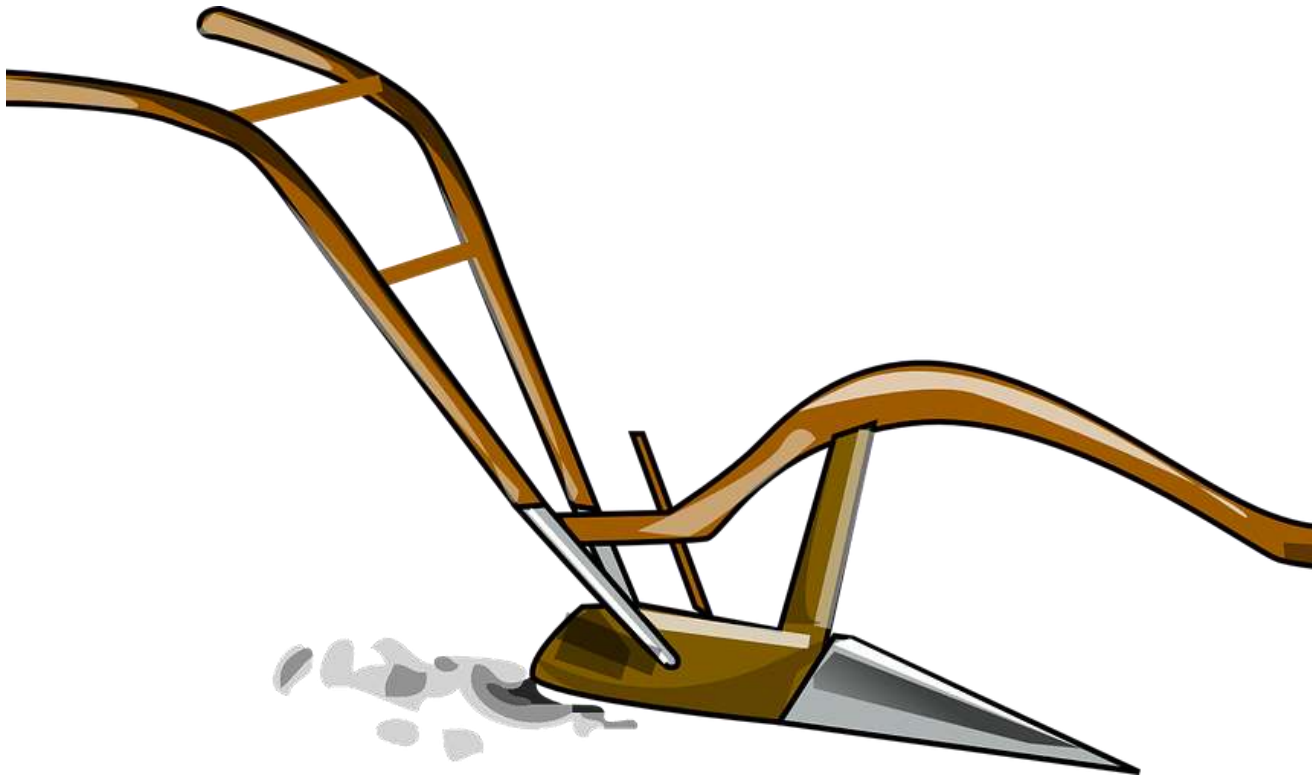


URGENT THINGS OF
THIS WORLD



LOOKING BACK

Introduction



- A Plow
- Familiar imagery:
agricultural community

1. PUTTING YOUR HAND TO THE PLOW

A. What does it mean?

- For Jesus?

- Matthew 16:24





Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me."

1. PUTTING YOUR HAND TO THE PLOW

A. What does it mean?

- For Jesus?

- **Matthew 16:24**
- Taking up your cross
 - You cannot stay idle
 - Single-mindedness



1. PUTTING YOUR HAND TO THE PLOW

A. What does it mean?

- For the three disciples?
 - “Yes, But...”



1. PUTTING YOUR HAND TO THE PLOW

A. What does it mean?

- For the three disciples?
 - “Yes, But...”
- For you and me?
 - **Matthew 6:33**





Matthew 6:33

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

1. PUTTING YOUR HAND TO THE PLOW

A. What does it mean?

- Love God
- No distractions or diversions



1. PUTTING YOUR HAND TO THE PLOW

B. What is my plow?

- Family/Marriage:
 - Families: God's idea



1. PUTTING YOUR HAND TO THE PLOW

B. What is my plow?

- Children's spiritual foundations
- "Marriage time"
- Our "Oikos":
 - Made to live in community



1. PUTTING YOUR HAND TO THE PLOW

B. What is my plow?

- Our Ministry:

- Pre-COVID complacency?
- What is God teaching us?



1. PUTTING YOUR HAND TO THE PLOW

B. What is my plow?

- Our Salvation:

- Forgotten our first love?
- Signs of neglect of the plow easy to read



2. LOOKING BACK

A. What does it mean?

- For Jesus:

- Not the act of evaluating progress
- Degree of longing to return to what was left behind



2. LOOKING BACK

A. What does it mean?

- For Jesus:
 - Not the act of evaluating progress
 - Degree of longing to return to what was left behind
- For the three disciples:
 - Competing personal priorities



2. LOOKING BACK

A. What does it mean?

- For Jesus:
 - Not the act of evaluating progress
 - Degree of longing to return to what was left behind
- For the three disciples:
 - Competing personal priorities
- For you and me:
 - Lose focus on Jesus
 - A higher priority than Jesus?



2. LOOKING BACK

B. Reasons why we might look back:

- Regret:

- Heart stuck to the world's pleasures
- Longing for past despite slavery conditions
- **Matthew 6:21**





*Wherever your
treasure is,
there the desires
of your heart
will also be.*

Matthew 6:21

2. LOOKING BACK

- Fear:
 - Taking our eyes off Jesus



2. LOOKING BACK

B. Reasons why we might look back:

- Lack of commitment:
 - Forget to count the cost
 - **James 1:8**





Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.

James 1:8

2. LOOKING BACK

- Commitment and total dedication required



2. LOOKING BACK

C. What happens when we look back?

- We plow a crooked row



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2. LOOKING BACK

C. What happens when we look back?

- We plow a crooked row
- We invite confusion into our minds
- We cannot bear fruit
- We become like flavourless salt
- We become poor witnesses



3. APPLICATION

- Jesus' statement: a response to the "But" reaction



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- Our response to Jesus' statement should be:
 - Be single-minded – **Philippians 3:13**





Philippians 3:13

*No, dear
brothers and
sisters, I have not
achieved it, but I
focus on this one
thing: Forgetting
the past and
looking forward
to what lies
ahead*

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- Our response to Jesus' statement should be:
 - Be single-minded – **Philippians 3:13**
 - Put God first before the concerns of the world
 - Fulfil the Master's plan for your life – **Ephesians 2:10**





Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's masterpiece.

He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

3. APPLICATION

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- Putting our hand to the plow = taking hold of the cross
- Our response to Jesus' statement should be:
 - Be single-minded – **Philippians 3:13**
 - Put God first before the concerns of the world
 - Fulfil the Master's plan for your life – **Ephesians 2:10**
 - Follow Me – spend time with the faith community

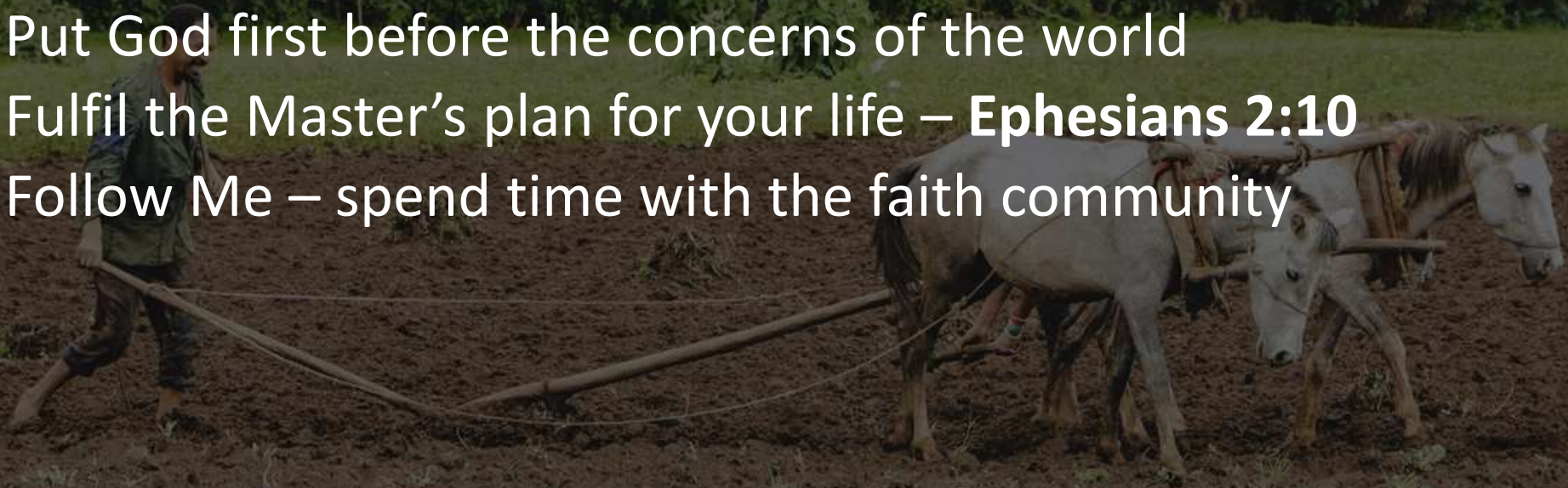


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