

What if – This is it!

Welcome back and here we go. Tonight is my second to last sermon until October 1st! Pretty crazy, but for me it is a fulfillment of my stated goal.

Ephesians 4:11-14 ¹¹ *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,*

The “equipping of the Saints”! I think we do a pretty good job here of giving people opportunity to serve.

1) But – What if _____ !

Simply meaning --- what if I passed today? How many great people have passed who were certain that they had more stuff to do. But they passed suddenly or unexpectedly --- or got sick, or whatever..... Bottom line – the day before was their last day of ministry.

James 4:13-17 ¹³ *Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; ¹⁴ whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. ¹⁵ Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” ¹⁶ But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.*

2) Don’t say what you _____ be _____ tomorrow.

This isn’t saying we shouldn’t plan; rather, tomorrow is not promised. So, the real question then is

3) How am I doing in ministry --- _____ ?

Why yesterday? Because it is my last assured 24 hour day.

Questions to ponder:

- a. Who am I serving?
- b. Why has God called me to serve them?
- c. Was I kind, patient?
- d. How am I serving (happily, begrudgingly, sadly)?
- e. Who is in my life that I don’t want to serve?

Ephesians 6:7 *“... with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,...”*
Colossians 3:23 *“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,...”*

4) Do _____ things as though you are _____ them _____.

Philippians 2:12-15 *Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. ¹⁴ Do all things without complaining [grumbling] and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world*

5) I don't want to be found _____ my way into _____.

Do all things ---- all things ----- not some ----- not most ----- ALL THINGS.

===== Men at K.V.S.P. =====

6) God will use the obnoxious to _____ !

I served every man there, and they didn't change, but everyone around them noticed, learned, grew.

II Corinthians 5:16-21 *Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. ¹⁸ Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

7) We are Christ's _____ to _____.

Everyone in your life is your ministry. The mature believer is no longer looking for what they are getting, but rather, what they are giving.

Let's pray God heals our relationships today.

===== "Holy Holy" song =====

Healing prayer.

