

Becoming the Master of Your Motivation:

Intro:

A. Consider the words of the Lord in Luke 9:57-62

- I.** While there are several lessons that we could draw from these verses, the recurring theme is giving all in our service to the Lord
- II.** While His words may seem harsh to some, Jesus felt compelled in this and other occasions to drive home the point that complete devotion *is required to be a worker in the Kingdom: Nothing must be placed before it.*
- III.** Verse 62 is of particular importance because it adds something very important to the discussion: the concept of follow through; completion: that the idea of devotion, is only complete, it is only sincere if once making that choice, we don't look back:

B. It is this concept that we want to explore this morning: not only becoming motivated to work for the Lord, but following through to completion:

- I.** Some people say they find it hard to get motivated: Motivation is easy: moving beyond those initial stages of feeling motivated is what can be difficult
- II.** You've heard the saying: "Talk is cheap"
 - a.** Matthew: 7:21: Jesus agreed whole heartedly:
 - b.** Exodus Chapters 7-12 tell us the story of Pharaoh learning that lesson

C. In times of duress and success, we can be very motivated: we can talk a good game

- I.** But there often comes a time when:
 - a.** Motivation never turns into action
 - b.** Actions, never see completion
 - c.** Lets look at two examples one that elaborate on each of these two problems:

i. Reuben's Great Searchings of Heart: *Judges 5:13-18*

a. Context:

- i.** The people have been under Jabin's oppression for 20 long and frustrating years
- ii.** God commanded Deborah and Barak to raise an army from Naphtili and Zebulin

- 1. This was an exciting time: God has heard prayers, victory is assured: Other want to join in on the excitement of the battle:
- 2. in Judges 5, Deborah's song of victory makes special note that many of the tribes were motivated to join in great unity:
 - a. **But as we read**, notice what is said of some of the other tribes:
 - b. Reuben, specifically is mentioned as having "great searching's of heart" thoughts, resolves
 - i. *Imagine their conversations:*
 - 1. *Its about time!-- If we went up we could really help-- lets not let everyone else do the work!*
 - c. Was Reuben motivated? Certainly: Did that turn into action: NO!
- b. What are some occasions when you've had great searchings of heart?
 - i. An encouraging Gospel meeting? (poss. ex of Acts 2)
 - ii. An encouraging service?
 - iii. A Bible study?
 - iv. Seeing the actions of a fellow Christian? (acts 4)
- c. It is an easy trap to fall into, to become excited, motivated, to resolve-- and feel that just by being motivated to do something, that you've already accomplished something!
 - i. We all want to put our hand to the plow, but lets make sure we encourage one another to go beyond "great searchings of heart:

2. The Gift of the Corinthian Church: 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 Read First.

- a. Context:
 - i. There had been a famine that for several years, afflicted the saints in Jerusalem
 - ii. Corinth, having been motivated by the actions of other churches, made a vow of their own to send a generous amount for relief:
 - iii. But if you noticed in v 10, an entire year had passed with their vow remaining unfulfilled:
 - iv. **Read in 9:1-5**, Paul and Titus are having to urge them to not let the saints down:
 - 1. IT wasn't for a lack of Desire: 10-11
 - 2. Or a lack of funding 13-15

3. It was a failure to let true motivation run its course to completion:
 - b. Think of other similar examples:
 - i. Pharoah's Butler: Gen 40:23
 - ii. Jehu driving out Baal: 2 Kings 10
 - iii. John Mark in Acts: Acts 15:38
 - c. **Are there areas** that you've started a good work and let it fall away?
 - i. More active in the Church/Community
 - ii. Helping/visiting the sick?
 - iii. Getting a bible study started with someone?
 - iv. Encouraging a brother or sister in need?
 - v. Being a better student of God's Word?
 - i. We are involved in a lot of good things! Lets make sure we follow through!

Conclusion:

- Often said: "If you don't do it, who will?"
- The Truth is, in God's Kingdom, If you don't do it, someone else will: God's will is going to be accomplished with or without you: Consider Esther 4:14
- When the Battle is won, and the victory song is sung: whether or not your are included is your own choice:
 - Do you want to be counted among those who put their hand on the plow and never looked back?
 - OR will you be found sitting among the sheep, proud about the deep searching's of your heart?