

commitment

between you and me | week six

post falls campus | february 12th & 15th | pat lessard



Commitment

- I'm totally committed to...
- Commitment comes in degrees...
- Commitment by itself isn't automatically good. It depends on what you're committed to.
- The opposite of commitment looks...
 - It's called "convenience."

Sermon Series | "Between You & Me"

- Wk 1 | Communication
- Wk 2 | Trust
- Wk 3 | Boundaries
- Wk 4 | Conflict Resolution
- Wk 5 | Commitment

Being committed to Jesus matters a great deal to Jesus | Luke 9:57-62 NLT

- As they were walking along, someone said to Jesus, "I will follow you wherever you go." 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." He said to another person, "Come, follow me." The man agreed, but he said, "Lord, first let me return home and bury my father." But Jesus told him, "Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead! Your duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God." Another said, "Yes, Lord, I will follow you, but first let me say good-bye to my family." But Jesus told him, "Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God."

Keeping Your Hands To The Plow

- The image is everyday first-century farming: once the plowshare bites into the soil, the farmer must grip tightly and move forward in a straight line.
- Jesus will not lessen the terms of following Him; the kingdom demands undivided allegiance
- Half-hearted effort are a waste of time
- Looking back, signals divided loyalty—heart still focused on former values
- Hands to the plow = straight furrows = eyes on Jesus and Jesus' priorities

Farmer Wilbur, 33 years on the Palouse

"I loved to plow. It's something you would do in the Fall after finishing last year's crop in preparation for the next season. It really was the start of the new year, though you still had winter in between. I just loved it. It looked like you accomplished something. A farmer takes great pride in straight furrows."

Key Plowing Principle: “Where you stare is where you steer”

- North Idaho Version - No one who puts his hands to the snow blower or lawn mower and looks back is fit for the job

Your commitment to Jesus is on full display in your love of others | Matt 22:37-40 NLT

- Jesus replied, “‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

God’s commitment to us is on full display in His love of you | Psalm 103:8-14 NLT

- The LORD is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever. He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west. The LORD is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him. For He knows how weak we are; He remembers we are only dust.

Commitment = Keeping Your Hands To The Plow (i.e., doing God’s work)

Keep Your Hands To The Plow, Christian / Church | 1 Peter 3:8-12 (Psalm 34:12-16) NLT

- Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude. Don’t repay evil for evil. Don’t retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you his blessing. For the Scriptures say, “If you want to enjoy life and see many happy days, keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies. Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it. The eyes of the LORD watch over those who do right, and his ears are open to their prayers. But the LORD turns his face against those who do evil.”

Reflection Questions

- Jesus said the Spirit of Truth will guide believers into all truth (John 16). What truth is He leading you to right now?
- What has stirred up from this series that you need wise counsel or an outside perspective on?
- Where in your relationships are you most tempted to choose convenience over commitment?
- Are you looking back at something God already asked you to leave behind? If so, what is Jesus calling you toward?
- What would it look like to put both hands back on the plow — in your friendships, church relationships, marriage, parenting, family, work, or walk with Jesus?

