

Whoever Said You Couldn't?

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What the Protestant Reformation (and Christ) Did For Us

Part of Reach Sunday

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Connect Group Study [PRINT VERSION]

Pastor Brent Thomas

BEGIN WITH YOUR EXPERIENCE

We all have those socially awkward moments or a surprising not-so-good situation. Describe a time when you made it through something alive and intact, or a difficult situation you wiggled out of?

Every Christian...has at least two major callings: (A) The call to use your vocation for the glory of God and the blessing of others; and (B) the call to make disciples.

Thus every believer should ask these two questions about their lives:

- 1. What skill has God given me by which I can bless the world?*
- 2. Where and how can I do it most strategically to advance the mission of God?*

—Gaining by Losing, J.D. Greear

➡ How might you answer these two questions?

➡ An American Christian leader once said, “God is less interested in your Abilities than in your Availability.” How might your life be different if you more frequently thought of this truth?

➡ A Christian leader in Asia recently observed, “In our country, we seek to train young believers to immediately obey the truth they know. You American Christians seem to be educated (in the Bible) well beyond your obedience.”

➡ Although we can get defensive when someone makes a broad generalization like this, what can we learn from this? How much more do you know than what you obey?

➡ What do you think there is within us that causes us to lean more toward discussing the Bible than doing obedience and troubleshooting disobedience?

LOOK IN THE WORD

There is a widespread myth in the church that 'calling into ministry' is a secondary experience that happens to only a few, privileged Christians. We believe that God takes the spiritual elite and entrusts them with the ministry, and for everyone else, their duty is to show up faithfully at the events planned by the ministers and foot the bills. Few lies cripple the mission (of Christ) more than that one.

—*Gaining By Losing, J.D. Greear*

➤ Read Ephesians 4:11-12. How would these two verses contradict this “myth” that J.D. Greear talks about?

MY LIFE - OUR MISSION

If possible, break into a men's group and a women's group. OR, if yours is a larger group, break into smaller groups.

What could your personal “work of ministry” look like in the coming days and weeks in the following areas (share your responses):

- Your work in the ministry of PRAYER with and for others?
- Your work in the ministry of the WORD to others?
- Your work in the ministry of the GOSPEL to others?
- Your work in the ministry of LOVING GOOD WORDS and DEEDS to others?

SHARE ONE act of obedience that God is calling you to this week; an act of obedience you would ask your group to hold you accountable to.