

Put Your Hand to the Plow

(Luke 9:62)

- Introduction:
1. Those who decide to become disciples of Jesus are making a life-long decision, and not a temporary one.
 2. Being a disciple requires us to put our hand to the plow and finish the row, regardless of how difficult that row may be to plow.
 3. Consider the actions of Elisha when he was called to be Elijah's successor (1 Kings 19:19-21).
 - a. Elisha let go of a physical plow to put his hands on a spiritual plow.
 - b. Killing the oxen and burning the plow was his way of saying he was totally committed.
 4. Likewise, our decision to follow Jesus and put our hands on the "gospel plow," must be made with total commitment.
 5. In this lesson, I want to share a few reasons why you should make such a commitment to the Lord.

I. Because You Owe It To Your Brethren

- A. (Numbers 32:6).
- B. There is no clergy-laity system in the Lord's church.
 1. Every Christian is a priest in God's kingdom today.
 - a. (1 Peter 2:9).
 - b. (Matthew 23:8-10).
 2. As priests, we have priestly duties to perform.

II. Because You Owe It To Your God

- A. (Ephesians 1:22-23).
- B. (Isaiah 6:1-8).
- C. (2 Corinthians 4:7).
- D. No service is too small (Mark 9:41; Exodus 17:10-13).

III. Don't Let Go & Don't Look Back

- A. Sometimes the difficulty of the task we face causes us to want to quit.
- B. (Galatians 6:9).
- C. If you look back, the Devil will lie to you about the past (Numbers 16:13).

- Conclusion:
1. We have work to do, urgent work.
 2. The Lord has not called us to a life of ease, but to a life of daily sacrifice and self-denial.
 3. "Rest" comes later. Now God needs us to put our hands to the plow and work.