

Title: Are You Ready To Invest?

Text: Exodus 39:43

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Theme: Unleashing Our Potential

Resource: “Here Today, There Tomorrow” by Gary McIntosh

Gary McIntosh asks the question, “Have you heard of the Nine Pregnant Women Rule? It takes nine months to have a baby, but you cannot have a baby in one month with nine pregnant women. It takes time for the natural process to develop!”

This is true for pregnancies and it is true for the church. What are the steps that are necessary for us to reach the fulfillment of our dreams and vision.

* Back in the book of Exodus we read about how God called upon the Israelites to build the tent tabernacle and all the “stuff” that goes with it.

- The tabernacle...poles, coverings, frame, curtains, fine linen and precious metal connecting rings
- The ark of the covenant...wood, pure gold, fasteners, atonement cover, two cherubim
- The table...wood, gold rings, everything overlaid with gold, with gold articles for the table (plates, dishes, bowls and pitchers for pouring out the drink offerings
- The lampstand...gold, base and flower-like cups, six branches, with seven lamps, all covered with gold
- The altar of incense...gold, with the sacred anointing oil, and the pure fragrance of incense (the work of a perfumer)
- The altar of burnt offering...wood, overlaid with bronze, utensils of bronze (pots, shovels, sprinkling

bowls, meat forks and firepans), a grating for the altar,

- Basin for washing...bronze basin and stand
- The courtyard...fine linen, posts and bronze bases, and silver hooks
- Materials uses...blue, purple and scarlet yarn, gold, silver and bronze,
- The priestly garments...the ephod, the breastpiece, other priestly garments,

Exodus 39:43

Moses inspected the work and saw that they had done it just as the LORD had commanded. So Moses blessed them.

God had a work to be done and the people responded in obedience.

* Comedian Louis C. K. said, “I have a lot of beliefs And I live by none of them. That's just the way I am. They're just my beliefs. I just like believing them—I like that part. They're my little "believies." They make me feel good about who I am. But if they get in the way of a thing I want, I [sure as heck just do what I want to do].

In the work of the Kingdom we cannot function on “believies.” God lays it out before us, and we obey. Then...

I. The work is inspected.

A. When all the parts and furnishings of the central sanctuary and the garments were completed the people brought them to Moses for his inspection and blessing.

- a. Recognizing that the craftsmen had meticulously followed the Lord’s instructions, Moses put his approval on all their work.

B. In whatever responsible position we find ourselves, follow up to make sure that tasks are completed as intended.

- a. Show your appreciation to the people who have helped.

* T. David Gordon in, "Vocation: Work Quietly with Your Hands," says, "Perceiving [all] of our labor as a vocation can have a substantial impact on how we go about [any job]. I worked as greenskeeper at a golf course in the summer when I was in school. I knew I had no intention to mow greens and fairways for my "career." But for the nine summers I was a greenskeeper, I regarded it as my calling [from God] for the time. I was ordinarily one of the first to arrive and the last to leave; I routinely volunteered for the most unpleasant or demanding work; and I could run any piece of equipment in the shop, which made me a "utility infielder" for my [bosses].

In my judgment, there is far too much Christian conversation about "finding" our calling, and too little about "pursuing" the one we have.

II. It is done just as the Lord commanded.

A. In Moses case, God's instructions were followed to the letter.

* While doing relief work in Haiti following the devastating earthquake there on January 12, 2010, Palmer Chichen observed firsthand the tragedy of building a house with a lot of sand and not enough steel:

There was a problem in Haiti. Houses were built with too much sand and not enough steel. Sand is cheap, so because of poverty, when many Haitians built their cement-block homes, they used more sand than they should have in their mortar mix. And because steel is expensive, they didn't use enough steel in the columns and ring beams. So when the

ground quaked, homes crumbled; there was too much sand and not enough steel. It was a tragedy of poverty.

In our own poverty of spirit, we try to build lives this way:

- We build marriages with too much anger and not enough love ... and they crumble.
- We build reputations on too much pride and not enough humility ... and they crumble.
- We build families on too much busyness and not enough time ... and they crumble.
- We build friendships on too much criticism and not enough grace ... and they crumble.

B. What kind of instructions does God give us?

2 Cor. 13:11

Finally, brothers, good-bye. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

Proverbs 18:12

Before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor.

Esther 8:6

For how can I bear to see disaster fall on my people? How can I bear to see the destruction of my family?"

John 15:13

Greater love has no one than this that he lay down his life for his friends.

III. Then they are blessed.

Exodus 40:2

Set up the tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting, on the first day of the first month.

- A. The Exodus began a new calendar in Israelite life.
 - a. The first day began a new life and their corporate life was measured from that point.
 - b. One year later the tabernacle was dedicated. It too was a new creation.

- B. Our lives are measured against our new birth and our subsequent obedience.

* In his book [What God Thinks When We Fall](#), Steven C. Roy tells a fictional story about a young violinist who lived in London many years ago. Although he was a superb musician, he was deathly afraid of large crowds, so he avoided giving concerts. But after enduring criticism for his unwillingness to give concerts, he finally agreed to perform in the largest concert hall in London.

The young violinist came onto the stage and sat alone on a stool. He put his violin under his chin and played for an hour and a half. No music in front of him, no orchestra behind him, no breaks—just an hour and a half of absolutely beautiful violin music. After ten minutes or so, many critics put down their pads and listened, like the rest After the performance, the crowd rose to its feet and began applauding wildly—and they wouldn't stop.

But the young violinist didn't acknowledge the applause. He just peered out into the audience as if he were looking for something—or someone. Finally he found what he was looking for. Relief came over his face, and he began to acknowledge the cheers.

After the concert, the critics met the young violinist backstage They said, "You were wonderful. But one question: Why did it take you so long to acknowledge the applause of the audience?"

The young violinist took a deep breath and answered, "You know I was really afraid of playing here. Yet this was something I knew I needed to do. Tonight, just before I came on stage, I received word that my master teacher was to be in

the audience. Throughout the concert, I tried to look for him, but I could never find him. So after I finished playing, I started to look more intently. I was so eager to find my teacher that I couldn't even hear the applause. I just had to know what he thought of my playing. That was all that mattered. Finally, I found him high in the balcony. He was standing and applauding, with a big smile on his face. After seeing him, I was finally able to relax. I said to myself, 'If the master is pleased with what I have done, then everything else is okay.'"

IV. It is the beginning of a new life.

- A. The tabernacle was a type or emblem of Jesus Christ.
 - a. As the Most High dwelt visibly within the sanctuary, so he seeks to reside in human hearts.
 - b. He is the object of our worship, and the author of our blessings.

- C. That new birth in Christ is the beginning of a new life.

2 Cor. 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

C. Are you ready to invest?

* The management of the 2002 Oakland Athletics baseball team found itself in a bind. The team had performed well the previous year, making it to the playoffs, but in the offseason, three of its best players were lured away by lucrative contracts offered by east coast powerhouses. In a relatively small market and with a limited budget, the A's had to find a way to compete. Their general manager, former big-leaguer Billy Beane (played by Brad Pitt), stumbled upon a revolutionary strategy to turn the A's into winners.

Beane's breakthrough occurred through the assistance of a young, untested, Yale-trained, junior executive named Peter Brand. Setting aside the assumptions that had, for decades, determined the way baseball talent was assessed, Brand asked a pair of elemental questions: what wins games? Answer: scoring runs. And what makes scoring runs possible? Answer: getting on base. Therefore, he concluded, if you want to win games, you have to acquire players who have a knack for getting on base. He had developed a metric for determining precisely who had that ability. He also discovered that baseball executives and scouts often overlooked or undervalued those very players.

Inspired by Brand's vision, and armed with his statistics, Beane assembled his scouts for a meeting regarding the acquisition of players for the upcoming year. Over and again, the grizzled and experienced baseball men spoke of the "look" or the "body" of a player, the way the ball "jumped off the bat" of one prospect, the "confidence" of another. Exasperated, Beane shouted, "But do they get on base?!" He was implying that an impressive and athletic player might not actually be the kind of player that wins games. He wanted his scouts, who were beguiled by the romance of the game, to share his own clarity of vision in regard to their ultimate purpose.

Needless to say, the old veterans didn't jump right on board. Neither did the manager; neither did the sports writers; neither did the fans. And when Beane's team, assembled according to Brand's calculations, started the season slowly, the critics came out in force, accusing the general manager of arrogantly standing athwart years of baseball common sense. But Beane stuck to his guns, and the team "of misfit toys" began to gel, and then to excel, and finally to produce the longest winning-streak in American league history.

God wants you on his TEAM.

- Time
- Energy
- Ability
- Money

I'm praying right now you will make the investment into the work of the Kingdom of God.