

A Sense of Urgency

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Look

We all live “busy” lives filled with tasks. Most likely you’ve heard of the distinction between a task being important or urgent (or both). Everyone has to work out their own way to manage their tasks. However a common problem is getting lost in being busy and losing track of what really matters to us.

1. What are a couple really urgent things you needed to deal with recently? What made them urgent for you?
2. Did those urgent things get in the way of doing something else important?
3. Who do you prefer to turn to when you are having trouble prioritizing tasks? How do they help you?

Book

Mark 1:14–20

These first disciples don’t realize what they are being called to do. They are in the middle of trying to make a living and provide for their families when Jesus calls them to follow. To call this a pivotal moment for these men is a bit of an understatement.

1. How does Mark’s use of the word “immediately” twice frame the mindsets of these disciples?
2. Imagine yourself as one of these disciples. What all would you be turning your back on to so immediately follow Jesus’ call? What kind of emotions would you be feeling?
3. In what way is it significant that Jesus calls a pair of people rather than individuals?
4. [Bonus question] Read the epistle, 1 For 7:29–31, and discuss how Paul frames a mindset focused on faith-based urgency rather than worldly-based complacency.

Took

Receiving a call from God isn’t always clear, and it isn’t always comfortable, but it carries a sense of spiritual urgency to it. We can’t simply put it off until later because we’re busy with other things.

1. Why is a call from God an urgent matter?
2. What gets in the way of you treating your call with more urgency?
3. Who can you discuss your own spiritual call with this week to help gain clarity and cultivate a sense of urgency?

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Jan 21, 2018