

Making the Most of What We Have

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Introduction

- 2017 has come and is just gone
- Reflect on the past year are you impressed
- To some it has been a hard road
- To others still it has been a long wait
- Others it has been a learning curve
- To others things just came together
- To the latter thank the Lord for having delivered you

Opportunities

- During the year we were all presented with opportunities
- Some we did not see, some we saw and could not believe it
- Some we saw and hesitated
- Some we simply just abandoned for other reasons.
- The Lord will always present opportunities to us.
- Some we cant see because we don't have the skills
- We need to get to see and manage the opportunities as they come along

Some ideas that can help

- Three things that we must get right
- What is my purpose in life
 - Am I ready to give myself to a greater purpose
- Am I ready to join with *great people* committed to that purpose.
- Am I ready to MAKE THE MOST of *great opportunities that present themselves*
 - Read Eph 5:16 ***Make the most of every opportunity for doing good***

1. I must Say no to good opportunities so I can say yes to great ones.

- I should know what to stop doing
- Because it is good it does not mean I should do it
- Some of the things are just distractions
- “I want you to do whatever will help you serve the Lord best, with as few distractions as possible.” 1 Corinthians 7:35 (NLT)

2. Every opportunity must be evaluated

- There are lot of opportunities that will come your way
- Which one should you pursue?
- Moses and the spies Num 13
- Joshua and the spies Joshua 2
- *“Test everything, and keep only what i s good.”*
1 Thessalonians 5:21 (NCV)

Questions to ask during evaluation

- i. WHAT DO I NEED AND WHO KNOWS IT
- *“It is stupid to decide before knowing the facts!”
Proverbs 18:13 (LB)*
- *“Get all the advice you can, and you’ll succeed;
without it you will fail .” Proverbs 15:22 (TEV)*
- *“Without wise leadership, a nation falls; there is
safety in having many advisers. “Proverbs 11:14*

Questions continuation

- ii. WHAT MIGHT BE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES
- *“A prudent man foresees the difficulties ahead and prepares for them; a fool goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.” Proverbs 22:3 (LB)*
- Expect the best and prepare for the worst
- *The wise are cautious^[a] and avoid danger; fools plunge ahead with reckless confidence. Prov 14:16*

Questions continuation.

- iii. WHAT'S MY MOTIVATION
- *"Never let selfishness or pride be your guide when you do things." Philippians 2:3 (NCV)*
- *Jesus: "If you want to be my follower, you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross, and then follow me." Matthew 16:24 (NLT)*
- iv. DOES THIS FIT MY PURPOSE AND MY CALLING
- *Jesus: "Anyone who lets himself be distracted from the work I plan for him is not fit for the Kingdom of God." Luke 9:62 (LB)*
- *Eph 4:1*

Questions **continuation...**

- v. IS THIS THE BEST USE OF MY TIME AND ENERGY
 - *“Everything is permissible, but not everything is beneficial , and not everything is constructive.” 1 Corinthians 10:23 (NIV)*

3. Opportunity comes when least expected

- Lets look at Joseph
- *Jesus: "You must be ready all the time, for I will come when least expected." Matthew 24:44 (NLT)*
- God can do for you in 24hrs that which you spend 24yrs trying to figure out
- *2 Tim 2: 21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel of honour sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work*

4. I must stay flexible to be ready

- “Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.” Galatians 5:25 (NIV)
- “Make hay while the sunshines.” Proverbs 10:5 (Mes)

CAUSES OF MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

- Inflexibility
- *"It is pleasant to see our plans develop. That is why fools refuse to give them up even when they are wrong!" Proverbs 13:19 (LB)*
- Being Busy
- *"Jesus said 'Come follow me' but the man said, 'Lord, let me first' . . ." Luke 9:57-10:2*
- Lack of Faith
- *"According to your faith will it be done to you." Matthew 9:29 (NIV)*

5. EVERY OPPORTUNITY WILL HAVE AN OPPOSITION

- Opposition from different fronts, parents, spouses, relatives etc
- *“There is a WIDE-OPEN DOOR for a great work here, and many people are responding! But there are also many who oppose me.” 1 Corinthians 16:9 (NLT)*

6. GREAT OPPORTUNITIES BRINGS GREAT RESPONSIBILITIES

- *“To whom much is given, much will be required, and to whom much more is given, even more will be expected from them.” Luke 12:48*
- *“The harvest is past, the summer has ended, and we are not saved.” Jeremiah 8:20*