

Missed Opportunities

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic
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December 3, 2022

How many would like to grab the opportunities from God? An opportunity is a choice or a combination of circumstances that we must grab to make progress (Galatians 6:10). God talks to us as His children and presents us with many opportunities for our good (Jeremiah 29:11). He uses these to show His purpose for us (Ephesians 5). However, we may miss taking up these opportunities in our busy-ness with life. Sometimes we feel inept. We don't see ourselves as capable, or we even make excuses. However, we must trust that when the Lord gives us opportunities, He Himself will equip and will guide us.

1. **Moses almost missed an opportunity to be used by God.** He offered many excuses when God called him. He asked God to send someone else (Exodus 3-4). But, the Lord called him and he eventually said "yes, Lord" to free the Jews. God told him exactly what to do to free them.
2. **How can we take advantage of God's opportunities?**
 - 2.1 **Ask God for opportunities to help put things right** (Romans 5).
 - 2.1.1. **Blessings come disguised as opportunities** to form our character, to show people that Christians are proven when under test (James 1:3-5)
 - 2.1.2. **Every trial is an opportunity** We must start living by faith in the face of trials (2Corinthians 4:7-9; James 2:17).
 - 2.1.3. **Let us open our heart to every opportunity that God will present to us.** He uses people who are excited to do His work. He gives everyone the opportunity to be generous. If we pass up an opportunity, God will always offer the opportunity to someone else.
3. **The Lord prepared an opportunity to the widow to be generous.** She responded with her strong faith (1Kings 17).
 - 3.1. Her openness: she only had one small loaf and a bit of oil left. Nonetheless, she gladly

shared it with Elijah. Sometimes we feel we don't have enough to give, but God never expects more than He provides (Ephesians 3:20; 2Corinthians 9:8).

- 3.2. Her obligation: she obeyed immediately. Let us give to God first (2Corinthians 9:6-8). The first produce goes to Him, not the leftovers (Malachi 3:10).
 - 3.3. She trusted God with the little she had. Then, God started to multiply; He started small. The jar of flour was not used up and the jar of oil did not dry up. Our God is a promise-keeper (Psalms 23; Luke 6:38).
 - 3.4. Her overflowing faith: she was generous not out of abundance but out of her faith.
 - 3.5. The Lord heard her prayer. When her son stopped breathing, Elijah cried out to the Lord to let the boy's life return unto him (1Kings 17:17-23).
4. **Peter seized an opportunity before Pentecost.** Jesus prepared them to have the power more than He did (John. 14:12).
 - 4.1. Their first miracle happened at the gate Beautiful (Acts 3: 6-10). Peter and John laid their healing hands on a beggar through the power of Jesus in them. We also need to be God's light so that other people will experience His love through us.
 - 4.2. Peter saw an opportunity to tell people about Jesus (Acts 3:12-16). A person who witnesses for God will be blessed more.
 - 4.3. Peter placed all the credit on Jesus.

Conclusion:

We could be doing more to lift up the name of Jesus Christ. Let us take every opportunity to share Jesus. Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their ways will be saved.

Reflection:

1. How many times have you passed up an opportunity from God? How you can you watch out for opportunities in the future?
2. How often do you tell people about His goodness? When did you last give glory to Him?

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