

What are some of the most important things you have ever done?

Leading my family, and preaching

What made them important?

I was called by God to do them.

Would you say you have a general idea of what your calling is, or are you in the process of searching for it?

Jesus is using lofty terminology about doing God’s will and accomplishing His work. He is doing something that is so important, Jesus isn’t even interested in eating, because He is so wrapped up in this great ministry. What was it? A conversation with an obscure woman at a well. Often the moments we think are utterly insignificant turn out to be supremely important.

Can you think of such a moment in your life – a time about which you are glad that you took an “unimportant” moment seriously, are one that you wish you had?

I’m glad I gave an invitation to Sam.

Jesus was in the right place at the right time to do God’s work. He got to that place at that time by being pressured by sinful men, and hindered by His own human frailty and weakness.

Is there an example in your life of God situating you by means of “mishaps?”

I ended up planting this church as a result of being fired from other churches.

To God a day is like 1000 years (that means to God each minute is 8.5 months! Each second is over 100 hours.) God is interested in the moment by moment existence of your life.

What effect does that truth have on your perspective?

It makes me take each moment more seriously.

It also fills my heart with love and gratitude toward God.

The woman achieved what the disciples could not (evangelizing the city) by appealing to Jesus' works, and trusting Him ("Come and see").

How could we utilize this strategy?

Give people Bibles, sermon tapes.

Keep preaching the Word as often as possible.

Invite people to church.

Support missions that involve getting God's Word into people's hands.

The woman primarily relied on Jesus, not on rhetoric or technique. Paul was the same way.

1Co 2:4 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, 5so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

Does this mean a person who wants to be a pastor should not take a speech class?

No. The point is that wise and persuasive words should not be the attraction – God is the attraction. However, we should use wise and persuasive words to present God, because we want to present Him as accurately as possible. A pastor should master speech, because to be a poor communicator is to obscure the message about God. That would be wrong.

Paul was an outstanding communicator. He was both wise and persuasive. Even this woman used some technique.

This woman had learned a thing or 2 about men.

She said to the men, 29 "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. This couldn't be the Christ...could it?"

"Oh, could you guys please help me? I don't know - could it be? Can you help me?"

It's the old damsel in distress technique. Give a man a chance to be the expert or the hero, and you have him.