

Thursday, July 8

Read Mark 6:1-13. There are no Bible verses that command, “Do what is possible.” There is an underlying theme in Scripture advocating and praising effort, diligence, perseverance and “bearing fruit,” which points us toward doing what is possible in the realm of good works, healing, peacemaking and other virtuous undertakings, like reconciliation and inclusion efforts.

Saint Francis of Assisi once advised, “Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.” While that can be true, we ought not take it as a guarantee, and treat the “possible” as if it were only a step on a larger journey. St. Francis’ statement suggests that there’s a momentum that may be unleashed by doing the necessary and the possible, and that it may carry over regarding the more difficult stuff. What do you think? Is it worth doing what is necessary in the hope of being propelled toward accomplishing great things? Ask God to make you aware of and open up great possibilities in reaching for great things to be done by doing what is necessary. Write your ideas here.

Friday, July 9

Read Mark 6:1-13. The message from Sunday ended with a series of questions. They are recorded in the notes. Let’s consider a couple of the questions. Is there something that is waiting for you to bring it to completion? What are the next steps in moving toward that goal? The other question you should focus on is: Where is God in your decision-making process? So often, we forget God’s care, love and guidance in our daily living. Have you ever asked yourself, “What would God want me to do?” Why not write down the thing you thought of that is waiting completion? What are your next steps? Where should you begin? Does it matter where you begin? God bless you as you move forward to do what is possible!

Message Notes – July 4, 2021

*Power and Places**

- I. Theodore Roosevelt wrote, “Do what you _____, with what you _____, where you are.”
 - A. There are _____ in which you just got to do what you can do.
 - B. There are times in which a task seems so insurmountable that you just don’t know where to _____.
 - C. Sometimes the _____ where you find yourself makes a difference.
 - D. It is clear that sometimes, doing what is _____ is better than bemoaning a larger goal that can’t be achieved at present.
- II. Something like that seems to be going on in today’s gospel reading. Jesus was visiting his _____ but there is no home court advantage.
 - A. On the whole, they had no _____ in him, and because of that, “he could do no deed of power there” (v. 5).
 - B. Mark makes this comment: “And he could do no deed of _____ there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and _____ them.”
- III. What can we take from this? Sometimes, doing what is possible is _____ than giving up if solving the larger problem is beyond reach.
 - A. There are no _____ that command, “Do what is possible.”
 - B. There is an underlying theme in Scripture advocating and praising effort, diligence, perseverance and “bearing _____,” which points us toward doing what is possible.
 - C. Saint Francis of Assisi once advised, “Start by

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- doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the _____.”
- IV. Where could we _____ this “do-what's-possible” principle?
- A. One place might be when you have _____ someone.
- B. Another place might be in _____ giving.
- C. This do-what's-possible principle also applies to projects or missions you may be feeling _____ by God to undertake, but seem impossible to you.
- V. A larger point behind this “do-what's-possible” principle is that Christianity is not just a set of beliefs, but also a set of _____. A few questions we ought to ask ourselves:
- A. When is “I'll do what I can” the _____ response? When is it a self-limiting _____?
- B. Do you ever wonder if God could be giving you a _____?
- C. What is waiting for you to _____? How is God _____ in that decision?

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, July 5

Pastor Jack began the message by sharing *The Star Thrower* written by Loren Eiseley and copyrighted in 1968. This story has several variations, for example the young child in the story is sometimes a little girl and sometimes a little boy. Another variation is the story begins with the child's proclamation, “Well, I made a difference for that one!” In the story as Pastor Jack told it yesterday, people help the young girl throw all the starfish back into the sea.

What would be your reaction to the events in the story? Would you watch as others join the little girl in throwing the starfish back into the sea or would you join in and help make a seemingly impossible task possible? What is your initial reaction to large and improbable projects? Think about these questions and write your thoughts here asking God to provide you with a spirit of possibility!

Tuesday, July 6

Theodore Roosevelt wrote, “Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.” Tennis Great, Arthur Ashe, some 50 years later, said, “Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.” There are times in which you just got to do what you can do, when you can do it and wherever you can do it. There are times, in which a task seems so insurmountable, that you just don't know where to begin; that's the emotion many people feel when seeing images of those who have suffered the ravages of terrible storms and tornadoes. Where do you begin to pick up the pieces of your life? It may be that the only thing to do is begin; to start anywhere. A leader once said, “Anything worth doing is worth doing poorly.” While that may not be the noblest approach to large undertakings, to begin – even poorly – can be meaningful. Any action you take brings you closer to your final goal. Record your reflection here.

Wednesday, July 7

Read Mark 6:1-13. As suggested in the introduction to the message and the scripture itself, the place where you find yourself can make a difference. I mean there must be some truth to the concept of having the home court or home field advantage – right? It is clear that sometimes, doing what is possible is better than bemoaning a larger goal that can't be achieved at present. Are there places in your life where you feel ineffectual? Are there places where you feel powerful and able to do anything? What is it about those places in your life? Consider these questions and write your reflections here.