

# Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35

Union Valley/Royse City, TX

Pastor: Steve Bishop

## November 6, 2016 – Too Many Irons in the Fire

This all started with blacksmiths – none of the metal was the right temperature to work into something useful...like cowboys at branding, if you get too many branding irons in the fire, you forget which one is hot and which one just got put back.

Moses leaves his wife and kids and goes to Egypt to rescue the children of Israel. Then he brings home 2 million people (can you imagine what his wife thought!)

Moses comes home and tells all the great things that happened when God brought them out of Egypt...plagues, the parting of the Red Sea.

Your fully developed strengths are more valuable than your slightly improved weaknesses

***Exodus 18:13 13-24 The next day Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning until evening.***

***14 When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, "What is this you are doing for the people? Moses thought he was doing what he was supposed to be doing. Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning to evening?"***

***15 Moses answered him, "Because the people come to me to seek God's will. IF you stand still very long a line forms. Moses just sat down one day and a line formed so he thought 'that must be my job.' Living life by default will lead to improving weaknesses instead of developing strengths.***

***16 Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God's decrees and instructions."***

My neighbor stole my chicken – don't steal chickens...it's going to be a law (no ten commandments yet) Oh! I didn't know! My tent fell down and the neighbor's teenagers were seen holding the tent stakes.

***17 Moses' father-in-law replied, "What you are doing is not good. NOT you're not doing a good job, you're not doing what you should be doing.***

***18 You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out.***

They are mad because they stood there all day and Moses is made because he's tired of hearing everyone. I bet he said anybody with a chicken problem get out of the line!

Moses accepted a role that distracted him from his primary responsibility.

***The work is too heavy for you, you cannot handle it alone.*** Moses must have thought that he was pretty important, all of these people who needed him. He must have thought his family would be impressed, “I’m kind of a big deal!”

***19 Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you.*** That is the code word for and I hope you listen. ***You must be the people’ representative before God and bring their disputes to him.*** Moses was the one who would go to God and say God please don’t kill these people, they messed up but please have mercy on them.

***20 Teach them his decrees and instructions, and show them the way they are to live and how they are to behave.*** Moses your job, your strength is to teach them the rules about God.

The next verses are why we have elders and team leaders.

***21 But select capable men from all the people – men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain – and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. 22 Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves. That will make your load lighter, because they share it with you. 23 If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all the people will go home satisfied.” 24 Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said ...***

***Matthew 13:18-23*** (background of these verses)

Jesus talks to a group of people in a story about a farmer and what seeds grow)

Seed by the path or road (birds ate it)

Seed by the rocks (too shallow)

Seed in the weeds (too much competition)

Seed on good soil (perfect environment to grow)

The disciples look at each other and kind of look at the ground, most them were fishermen not farmers and what does this have to do with anything. So they asked Jesus “What are you talking about?”

***18 “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: 19 When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path.***

What are some reasons people do not understand it?

***2 Corinthians 4:4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.***

Satan is endlessly trying to fill everyone's mind with so much stuff they have no room left for the knowledge of Christ. If Satan can't make you bad, he'll make you busy.

***20 The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. 21 But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away.***

Being a Christian will always cost you something.

***22 The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.***

Satan wants to keep your life so messed up that you never have time to think about God (money, relationships, addictions are key areas to watch for).

***23 But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."***

Some key points about this story...

The sower was the same, the seed was the same.

The only thing that changed was the soil in these parables.

It's not the messenger or the message, it is the soil that is prepared that makes the difference.

Points ...

Only do what only you can do.

Discover what you're not good at and eliminate those things from your schedule (everyone around you already knows the answer).

Give your best time to what has the biggest impact.

If you do these things you will be able to find a pace of life that is sustainable. Your life will reflect your strengths not your weaknesses.

Implication: anything that relates to your time is spiritual. Because your time is a gift from God. God has a plan for how you spend every second of your time. Your days are numbered.

Question: Where do you need to begin or begin again to make consistent deposits of time? What came to mind during the sermon? Your answers to that question are your response understanding what God's will is for your life.

Words of wisdom from Billy Currington...

I wasn't born for diggin' deep holes  
I'm not made for pavin' long roads  
I ain't cut out to climb high line poles,  
But I'm pretty good at drinkin' beer!

I'm not the type to work in a bank  
I'm no good at slappin' on paint  
Don't have a knack for makin' motors crank, no  
But I'm pretty good at drinkin' beer!

I ain't much for mowin' thick grass  
I'm too slow for workin' too fast  
I don't do windows so honey don't ask,  
But I'm pretty good at drinkin' beer!

A go-getter well maybe I'm not  
I'm not known for doin' a lot  
But I do my best work when the weather's hot,  
I'm pretty good at drinkin' beer!

Question: What is in the way or an obstacle to you giving God the time he wants in the area you thought about?

When you become a Christian, God's spirit lives in you and provides self-control. Begin praying about the area of time you need more discipline in.

Question: What are you willing to do about it?

Small amounts of time invested over a long period of time in the critical areas of life is God's will for your life.