

SERMON NOTES

January 6 & 7, 2024

Commit: Burn the Plow

1. A commitment is a _____.

2. Conventional Wisdom: Commitment avoidance is _____.

3. Minority Opinion: Commitment makers and commitment keepers will _____
_____ commitment avoiders will _____ **John 8:31-32**

4. _____ are outrageous commitment makers. **I Kings 19:19-21**

5. An ultimate commitment to a non-ultimate value is _____.

6. _____ when a human being makes an outrageous
commitment to a _____ of the supremely worthy God.

Homework: Where is God calling me to _____?

Life Steps

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Monday

John 8:31-32

Reflect: It is not in our freedom, but our commitments, that we find ourselves. In light of these words of Jesus, how do you define commitment? How do you define freedom? In what way can freedom seem the opposite of commitment? What was your primary message takeaway?

Prayer: God, you are my healer, my hope, my strength, and my source of freedom.

Tuesday

Galatians 5:13-14

Reflect: Paul implies in this passage, commitment makers will experience a freedom that commitments avoiders will never know. How does the commitment to love your "neighbor" set you free? In this season of your life, are you more of a commitment maker, commitment breaker or commitment avoider?

Prayer: Generous God, forgive my selfishness and reluctance to act on your nudges, and asks, when it means giving up things I want or like to do.

Wednesday

Psalms 119:113-120

Reflect: When are you prone to be "double-minded?" When have you made a commitment and failed to keep it? What were the results?

Prayer: Commitment keeping God, help me to be more like you.

Thursday

1 Peter 3:15-22

Reflect: According to this passage, what is the ultimate commitment a Christian can make? How does God respond when we fail to keep our commitments to him? Identify any broken commitments you are feeling compelled to go back and honor? Identify your next steps.

Prayer: God, order my steps as I seek to make good on promises made to you and others.

Friday

1 Kings 19:19-21

Reflect: What was the purpose of Elijah's wrapping up Elisha in his cloak? Why did Elijah ask, "What have I done to you?" Why did Elisha kill his oxen and burn his plow? From our homework assignment, where is God calling you to "burn the plow?"

Prayer: Self-less God, with the world behind me and the cross before me, release your supernatural power so I might know the joy and freedom of answering your call upon my life.

Saturday

Matthew 5:33-37

Reflect: Making the right commitment, in the right spirit, to the right obligation, assignment, value, or person, is the noblest thing a person can do. How can we know we are making a right commitment? What keeps you from making big commitments?

Prayer: Spirit of the living God, make clear to me when to say "no" and when to say "yes."

Sunday

Genesis 15:18

Reflect: The word "Covenant" means unbreakable promise. From Genesis 12 through Genesis 17, God repeatedly says to Abram, "I am committed to you." People who follow God are commitment makers because we alone, of all God's creatures, are made in the image of our commitment making, commitment keeping God. What are some of the commitments God makes and keeps?

Prayer: Promise keeping God, give me the will and strength through your Holy Spirit to make the commitments I need to make so I can live the life you want for me, which is far better than anything I have planned for myself.