



Life Group Sermon Notes

“Stand Up & Do Something: Inconvenienced”

Ps. Daniel Stephens - March 13, 2016

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What's the most inconvenient thing you had to do this past week? Why was it inconvenient?
- What do you enjoy most about your weekly routine?
- When was the last time you recall that someone went out of their way to help you?

Word (10-15 minutes)

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Romans 5:1-2 (ESV) *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

Ephesians 2:8-10 (ESV) *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

God saves us by grace, not according to any works we have done. Salvation is gift given to those who believe. Yet God has called each of us to do good works which he has planned from long ago. They are called good because they are designed to bring God's blessings to others and to glorify God. However, there are times when these good works are not something we would want to do because of the personal cost that will be involved.

1. The Gospel in inconvenient.

All of us have natural selfish tendencies, since all of us have inherited a sinful nature because of humanity's original rebellion against God. When someone is regenerated by the Gospel, the Spirit of God comes to live in that person and brings about an internal change, implanting the desire to please and follow God. However, the sinful nature is not eradicated. Instead, a struggle ensues between the Spirit and our sinful nature. Paul writes about this in Galatians and Romans. God calls us to crucify the sinful nature and to live according to the Spirit, listening to him, being led by him, relying upon his wisdom and strength in our lives. The Spirit will lead us into good works. Even though they will be inconvenient, perhaps in significant ways at times, they will bring pleasure to God and fulfillment to our own souls. To do what is good in God's eyes and to know God's pleasure is priceless and fills the soul with joy.

2. The Gospel makes you cry.

Isaiah 58:1-12 (ESV) *“Cry aloud; do not hold back; lift up your voice like a trumpet; declare to my people their transgression, to the house of Jacob their sins... Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it*

not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.' If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. And the Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail. And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in."

Notice the emphasis on personal and corporate responsibility in this passage where God describes the religious worship that he values. In our English translation references to "you" and "your" appear about 32 times in these 12 verses. The prophet emphasizes the good works which God's people are called to do. He is commanded by God to cry aloud the message of rebuke and correction to the people of God. It is God's cry from his heart for those who are hurting and in need, whether it is due to their own sin or the sin of others or simply living in this fallen world. God cares for the lost and the wounded. To hear God's cry is to cry with him over the needs of the world. God wants us to embrace his compassion and to engage in good works though they may be inconvenient.

What is God asking you to do? How is the Gospel inconveniencing you right now?

Luke 9:23 (ESV) *"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."*

2 Corinthians 12:9–10 (ESV) *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

Though the Gospel will inconvenience us and move us with compassion to take action on behalf of others in need, yet God's grace is sufficient for us. He will be with us and he will help us and he will enrich us as we follow him in doing the good works he has prepared beforehand.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related point for discussion.

- How is the Gospel inconveniencing you right now in your life?
- Is there anything God has been leading you to do for someone that you have put off? Why have you put it off?
- How can we overcome our own internal resistance to following God in doing good works when we recoil from the anticipated personal cost that will ensue?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Pray for a fresh awareness and appreciation of God's grace in our own lives.
- Pray for a greater infilling of God's heart of compassion for others in their needs.
- Pray for God's grace to strengthen and sustain us as we resolve to do the good works God has called each of us to do.