

March 6, 1988 (N.C.) "Whatever it Takes"

On Friday Night, we heard Jerry Wayne Bernard sing a song that should be the heart cry of every believer -

The title of that song was "Whatever it Takes"

As I listened to the words my heart was strongly touched - For you see, one verse of the song says this -

"Take the dearest thing to me, if it must be, to draw me closer to you Lord"

I began to ask a question, "Lord, ^{with you} show me what is closest to me" & He did

Lord, ^{with you} show me what I treasure most? ^{& He did}

{ New folks, we don't ask God to do that, unless we want His Answer - Answer - }

You see God wants us to be truthful with ourselves - He already knows,

God simply wants us to be
aware of what it is that keeps
us from being ONE with Him.

So I'm going to ask each of you
to do, what God led me to do Ask,
and allow Him to answer the question
word, what is closest or dearest
to me — } If you'll DARE Ask the Question /
} God will give the Answer

would you turn in your Bible to
Matthew Chapt. 4, Verses 18 - 22

The very foundational Scripture
dealing with our Lord's calling
the first 4 Apostles —

< Listen to it > Matt. 4:18-22

Our Lord had just completed the
time of temptation in the wilderness.

Over & over He was asked to put
other things before His commitment
to God —

And over & over He gave
evidence that pleasing God
was first & foremost in His life

2/ Now its time to be about proving
his sincerity // So He began His Ministry //
Walking along the Leashore
Jesus comes upon some very
busy men — They were
fishermen by trade — a
hard job — It took long hours

To be successful, they had to be
dedicated to what they felt was
most important —

They had to be convinced
that what they were doing
was #1 priority —

Peter & Andrew were men like that —

There was no question about
who they were & what they
were doing —

You could see, by what
they were doing, that
they were dedicated to
a cause — They left no room to doubt

Dear people, "Think about this" // Suppose
we were so dedicated to the cause
of Christ, that people could not question
our commitment.

Suppose you read I were so
hell out to fear that people
would be convinced by simply
observing an liar - (Can you
visualize the effect it would
have on our Community - / or
our County - / or our State /
Yes, even on the world we
live in —

<Think About it>

Always
Jesus, looked for busy people, He
did not go to the Country club
or Bridge club, to find followers,
Nor to the Dance Hall

Jesus went out where the work
was being done // He went to
the job site // He sought
out busy people

He still does

Excuse makers don't get the job done

Day Dreamers don't get the job done.

Loafers don't get the job done.

Workers Do

People who are Convinced & Dedicated
get the job done —

3 Did you know that less than 20% percent of the members of a church do 90 percent of the work.
(Check it out // that estimate may even be lower)

Jesus said to these busy / dedicated men, "Follow Me"

The word "Follow" as used here says this:

- ① I want you to be my Companion
- ② I want you to be in vital union with me
- ③ I want you to be like me

It also says this:

- ① Once you commit yourself to Follow ^{Ship} ~~Jesus~~ // there will be no turning back - If the work is to be done

Do you know why Jesus said that?
"Because turning back (or becoming unfaithful after professing to be faithful) is as worst to God" # It's Living to God # It's implying that you put one's own as God —

Now First off: We don't put our
over on God —

And Second: It's dangerous to say ✓
because God has ways to show us
how wrong we are — And does

When Jesus said: "Follow Me" He was
Asking this Question

"Would you be willing to say to
me" "what ever it takes for
me to follow you, I'm willing
to do it"

Oh Sweet people, Listen to your Pastor

"Jesus Ask you & me the
same Question today, And

the Only way we will ever
become what He calls us to
be, is to say from the very
depth of our soul —

"Whatever it takes Lord,
I'm willing"

Are you? Am I? (God knows)

Then Jesus said: "If you will, I'll give
you beyond measure"

4. "Follow Me, And I Make you Fishers
of men" ("a Soul Winner" / "Blessed of God")
} No ~~greater~~ greater joy can be ours,
} Until we introduce some one to
} Jesus (Do you know that joy?)

Last Thursday Night, God allowed me
to introduce a man to Jesus - ^{The man}
Solid / Louth or No / "This is the
first time is 14 or 15 years that
anyone asked me about my
relationship with God"

Oh hister, if that's true / People who
call themselves concerned one
trying to God ~~are~~ They Don't care
"The First thing, is not the
first thing" (God forgives us)

Jesus Asked Peter & Andrew this
Question, "Are you willing?" "Do you
care enough?" "If so, Follow Me &
And I'll show you what really
matters most to God —
(Listen to their Answer)

"They 'Straight way' left their nets
and followed Him"

The Greek meaning for 'Straight way'
is "Immediately" or without hesitation

It means: "They did not question or
count the cost"

It means: "From that hour,
they followed Jesus"

(Ex. Autez)

The Greek word is EXAUTES At Once

O Dear people, Suppose today, As
the conviction is given, / And as
the Holy Spirit convicts our hearts /
we would "Straight way" or
"without hesitation" commit ourselves
to the cause of Christ—

Suppose we would say, Here I am,
Lord, use me, "whatever it takes
to draw closer to You Lord,
That's what I'm willing to do"

What do you think would happen? ?

Here's what I believe

I believe these Aisles would be filled with people turning their priorities over to God — Someone accept call to spread Gen

I believe this altar would be filled with people as their knees // Humbling themselves // perhaps for the very first time ever //

I believe people would flood this Congreg with tears of Repentance
I'm convinced we would become a soul winning people

I'm also convinced if everyone here who calls themselves a believer, would say to God, "whatever it takes to draw closer to you Lord, I'm willing to do it, all the means that have been used to keep from aligning our self with this body of believers would be laid aside —

Many of you know this work is of God // you need to become a part of it —

Jesus said to Peter, Andrew, James
& John, And to you and me

"Follow Me" / "Follow My Example" / And
in Gethsemane and on Calvary, He
gave the example of ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~proof~~

Listen to this: Mark 14:36

"And Jesus said: "Oh my Father, all
things are possible with you. Take
this Cup (Becoming Sin) away from
me"

(You see Jesus, had never known
sin or we do // He was about
to Become Sin or the Escape
Goat / The sinful one / so your sins and
my sins could be forgiven)

And then Jesus said: "Nevertheless"
(or if necessary) Not what I will
(or ask) but thy will (what you ask)
be done"

Here's what Jesus said: "Whatever
it takes", I'm willing to do it"
whatever it takes, I'm available

Oh dear people, "There's the example
Jesus gave "whatever it takes,
God, I'm willing"

And here's the proof - ^{the} ^{meant} it
John 19: 30
"when Jesus had therefore
received the vinegar, He said
"It's Finished", and He bowed
His head, and gave His life
freely, so you & I could be
saved"

In Jesus Case "whatever it took" was
His life — In our case, it could
be any life submitted without
reservation — Not to die, but to
live a life that gives proof

Proof
That the main thing, (Submission, our
all to Jesus) is the main thing —

Remember, a few minutes ago we
shared what we believe would happen
if every BELIEVER in this place
would say: whatever it takes, I'm willing to do it

Are Men A believer is of as the Lord Jesus ³

Are Men willing to humble & commit
himself to God -

Then As we
bow our heads to pray - Men
be the first one in the Assemblies

Saying to God, And to those
Assembled - "Lord, I'm willing"

"Lord, here I am, use me"

"Lord, what ever it takes."

Prayer

Give us the place of God

Open Doors to the Church -