



Fruitful, Again!



“The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities.

Jesus Christ | Matthew 25:21 (NLT)

While praying, neither awake nor asleep, I saw myself standing in the courtyard of a log fortress, its majestic gates wide open. My gaze was shifting back and forth between the mighty wood walls and a lush trail meandering from the gate into the forest; a tug of war between two elephants, one called security, the other adventure.

A sense of excitement and freedom welled up as I thought about the trail. I wanted to hear *"Well done, my good and faithful servant."* It took all of my faith to leave a good, secure job in favor of entering a new Forum with the hope of it becoming a great one. Praise the Lord who made this the most incredibly fruitful stage of my life... so far!

What strikes me nearly 20 years later is the rest of what the master said; *"You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities."* Like it or not, God doesn't want me (nor you) resting on past successes. It's time for a "promotion," an increase in Kingdom responsibilities (though not necessarily in worldly blessings.) ...The elephants are back.

***Reflect:* Could God have a promotion in store for me?**

When foreseeing a promotion to a new Forum, emotional tensions light up. One voice says, "Stay put. Life is good, why take the chance?" You might even hear, "I've experienced amazing fruitfulness, I'd hate to turn God's blessings away." Intrigued, another says, "I'll be challenged to grow. A new Forum could produce even greater fruit. Certainly, it will bring me closer to God... not to mention, my time on earth is growing short."

Emotional tensions can hold you hostage, does past success have you

Locked-in? Could a great Forum have faded? Has there been a decline in fruitfulness, your testimony having cooled off? Your enemy urges, "it's OK, just stay safe!" But the Lord won't let a good and faithful servant linger here. A new Forum awaits, will you avail yourself?

Consider: A once great Forum, now waning, can keep you from a great new Forum.

In business, it's a struggle to introduce new products that obsolete older profitable ones. Don't cut off the hand that feeds you, right? But companies that adopt the attitude "If we don't do it someone else will" thrive; those that don't, don't... remember Kodak?

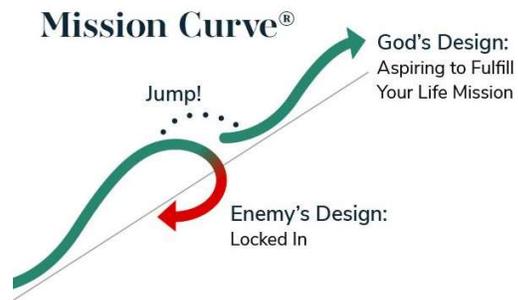
"I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. Jesus Christ (John 12:24)

Baked into God's laws of sowing and reaping is the fact that something good must be sacrificed to gain a plentiful new harvest. The pull of the elephant named security is strong. What could give the elephant named adventure the strength to overpower it?

Imagine: My Mission becoming more and more aligned with Jesus'.

When you accept a promotion, your Mission unites with Jesus' to an even greater extent. You'll be another notch closer to becoming "one in purpose" with him. A promotional jump requires incredible courage! Yet, it's fresh humility that overcomes the elephant named security.

Is the urgency of the Gospel rising in you? Can someone you serve truly be healed without Jesus? Can you become more like him lacking his central passion? Humbly let Jesus' passion lead you to jump into a new Forum. New, highly contagious testimonies will make you...



Fruitful Again!

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

Coach's Questions

- What are my Emotional Tensions telegraphing, am I Locked In?
- How fruitful are the Forums I'm in? Which are becoming more fruitful? Less fruitful?
- What steps could I take to discover a new Forum that might be more fruitful than a current one in decline?

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

Move to greater fruitfulness.

"I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more.

Jesus Christ | john 15:1,2



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