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# THE CHALLENGES OF BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTRY

## I. Priorities

- a. God has to be **first** – Colossians 1:15-18
- b. Spiritual Disciplines
  - 1. The Word
  - 2. Prayer
- c. Family – 1 Timothy 5:8
- d. Ministry
- e. Physical Needs

## II. Balance

- a. Living In Overload / *Overcoming Overload* – Steve and Mary Farrar
- b. Doing is not the ultimate – Luke 10:38-41
- c. Capacity – Luke 12:48b
- d. Margin – John 15:1-2, Hebrews 12:7-8, 11

## III. Rest

*“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” – Matthew 11:28-30*

- a. The Practical Side of Rest (our part)
- b. The Spiritual Side of Rest (Jesus’ part)
  - i. Jesus Invites “Come to Me” - What does that look like today?
- c. Burdens
  - i. Burdens From Circumstances
    - 1. Trials – James 1:2-4
    - 2. Health, Family, Finances, etc.
    - 3. Demands (others, self)
- d. Burdens From Self
  - 1. Temptations – James 1:13-14
  - 2. Comparison
  - 3. Cravings (idols) – James 4:1-3

- e. Jesus Promises Rest
- f. The Gospel is the Ultimate Source of Refreshment - Acts 3:18-20
- g. See Your Ministry As The Gift From God That It Is - 1 Peter 4:10

#### IV. Servanthood

- a. The Rest Jesus Talks About Is Not About Doing Nothing
- b. The Work Of Jesus Is Serving
- c. Serving is an expression of your love for Christ - Matthew 25:37-40, Matthew 10:42
- d. The ultimate example of servanthood is Jesus - Philippians 2:5-8
  - i. Serving Your Leaders
  - ii. Serving Your Congregation
  - iii. Serving Your Team
  - iv. But - Always keep in mind Who you are **ultimately** serving - Romans 12:11
- e. The Release of Servanthood - John 15:4-5, 1 Peter 5:7, 1 Peter 5:5-6
- f. The Relief of Servanthood
  - i. Know When It Is Time For a Break
    - 1. Avoid burnout
    - 2. Paul's race illustrations - Acts 20:24, 1 Corinthians 9:24-25, 2 Timothy 4:7, Hebrews 12:1-3
    - 3. A **Break**
  - ii. Speak the truth in love when necessary - Ephesians 4:15
- g. The Results of Servanthood
- h. Delight In Your Weakness - 2 Corinthians 12:7b-10

#### V. Your Spiritual Health

- a. Guard Your Heart - Proverbs 4:23
  - i. All ministry flows from the overflow of what God is doing in **your** heart
  - ii. Your words, attitudes, and actions reveal what is going on in your heart - Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)
  - iii. Do what is right - even when you are tired! - Galatians 6:9-10
  - iv. Make space to listen for God's voice - 1 Kings 19:11-12
- b. Sin
  - i. Dealing With Sin - Galatians 5:16-17, 19-21, James 3:16
    - 1. Sins of Commission - James 4:7
    - 2. Sins of Omission - James 1:22, James 4:17
- c. Keep Your Account Reconciled With God - Psalm 139:23-24, Proverbs 28:13

- d. Sufficiency
  - i. Is Christ Enough For You? - 2 Peter 1:3-4
  - ii. Your ministry **has** to rest on the sufficiency of Christ for everything you need - 2 Corinthians 3:4-6
  - iii. When you face obstacles, trust God for victory - 2 Chronicles 20:14-15, 17
  - iv. Lay down any idols - Deuteronomy 4:23-24
  - v. Choose the abundant life - Deuteronomy 30:19-20a

## VI. Seeking Vocational Ministry

- a. *Career Crossover* - Tom R. Harper
- b. Your work is a holy calling no matter what it is - Colossians 3:23
- c. Be faithful in your current circumstances before seeking vocational ministry - Luke 16:10
- d. Not A Career Choice - This **Has** To Come From God
  - 1. Making plans is good, but follow the Spirit's guiding - Acts 16:6-10
  - 2. Allow God to open the doors
  - 3. His Timing, Not Yours - Ecclesiastes 3:1