When We Just Sit By

Greg Kline · Numbers 32:1–23

INTRODUCTION

- Sometimes it's easy to just be the person kind of sitting on the sideline to take care of our own little house and to make sure everything's in order.
- But the problem with sitting by is not just laziness or idleness, although that is a problem.
- When I don't act, either nothing gets done, or somebody else is going to help in a way that maybe might not be the way God wants.

1 They Didn't Want to Cross Over

Numbers 32:6–11; Numbers 13

- They didn't want to cross over. Why didn't they want to cross over? Well, verse 1 and 2 is very clear. The land was good.
- If they don't cross into the Jordan, guess what they don't have to be involved in? That great fight to take out the Canaanites, the Amorites.
- Surely none of the men who came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upwards, shall see the land that I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and to Jacob.
- Moses says, Hey, you get to make a choice.

2 Allowing Ourselves to Be Distracted

Luke 8:13–15; 2 Timothy 4:10; Joshua 1

- There's a lot of times I don't want to step up and serve the way I know I should, and I have a litany of reasons, one such reason is because we're allowing ourselves to be distracted.
- For what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear. But as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature.
- They were distracted. Just like the thorny ground. They were distracted by the cares and concerns of this life.
- In 2 Timothy 4 and verse 10, he had deserted Paul. Why? Because he was in love with this present world.
- Be strong and courageous. Do not fear. Why? For I, the Lord am with you wherever you go.

3 We Are Discouragement to Others

Proverbs 18:9; Galatians 6:1–2

- When we sit and don't help, one of two things happens. Either the work stops and is hampered, or somebody else has to do it.
- When I don't step up and serve, not only is the work being hampered, I'm discouraging my fellow brothers and sisters.

- Whoever is slack in his work is a brother to him who destroys.
- Not only are we failing individually, we might be causing others to fail too.
- Our mindset has to be such that says others are more important than self.

4 Stir One Another Up to Love and Good Works

Hebrews 10:24; Ecclesiastes 4:9–12

- We have an active role and responsibility to reach out to one another. And when we don't, we're missing the big picture.
- We are to stir one another up to love and good works. When we sit by, we not only reject Jesus, we discourage others from accepting him.
- Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.
- The concern was on us, our livestock, this land that we saw that looks good for us, what we want.
- If I don't shine my light, the work of the Lord is hampered.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Do I care enough about others to fight the fight? Am I willing to cross the Jordan? Am I willing to fight others' battles because they are my kinsmen?**

MY NOTES