



Dear Crossroads Family,

It has been a long time, but I remember playing on merry-go-rounds when I was a kid. For a seven-year-old, the playground merry-go-round is not a piece of park equipment; it is a high-stakes test of human endurance. It begins with the frantic, sneaker-squeaking sprint to propel the rusted metal wheel of death to Mach 1, followed by a desperate, ungraceful dive onto the deck. Within four seconds, joy mutates into sheer survival mode as centrifugal force tries to eject you into the woodchips. Grinning through a face full of wind and flying hair, you cling to the peeling green bars like a space-shuttle astronaut breaking orbit, experiencing a chaotic blur of spinning trees, worried parents, and the sudden, profound realization that juice boxes taste much worse when revisited at 40 RPM.

One thing I always kept in mind when I played on a merry-go-round was this: The closer I could get to the center, the more anchored and secure I became. The outside would still be spinning at a frantic pace, and other kids would lose their grip and fly off the spinning orb, but my position remained unshakable in the center.

Here's an obvious place where something in everyday life mirrors something important related to our relationship with God. On the edges of God's will (living by our own strength or following the world's pace), we expend a massive amount of energy just trying to hold on and survive. But when we move toward the center—into total surrender to His will—the frantic spinning doesn't necessarily stop around us, but *our* position becomes completely stable.

Psalm 62:1-2 says, *“Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.”*

So, maybe the most important question we can ask ourselves is this: What is God's will for my life? What it is overall, and what is it today; that is, how can I do His will today so that I can be in the center of His will.

That's the question I will be addressing in my sermon this Sunday entitled, *“Not Quite a Nun: Discovering What God Would Have You Do.”* I think this is a pretty important topic (unless you think juice boxes taste better when revisited at 40 RPM!).

I hope you'll join your family of faith for worship this Sunday. It's going to be a great Sunday.

Love,
Bro. Doug

Not Quite a Nun: Discovering What God Would Have You Do
Acts 13:1-3 & 44-52

Deep in our hearts, we want to know _____ God would have us do and _____ to do it to be _____ to Him. But how? A good place to start is to look at the approach employed by _____ and the _____ in Acts 13 as they sought to know God's purpose and plans for them.

The text says, "While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said..." In Antioch they set aside time to be _____ to the Lord and His will for their lives. It was during a time of _____ and sacrificial devotion that God blessed them with the specific way they should fit into His work. So, God gives His direction for our lives as we _____ ourselves seriously in worship, especially with His gathered people. If you want to discover God's plan and will for your life, worship with God's people has to be elevated from a brief _____ of the _____ toward heaven, to a season of _____, _____ acknowledgment of His holiness, glory, and absolute Lordship over your life. Give it the best of your time, energy, and devotion and see if in the midst of it, God by His Spirit won't give you His best _____ for your life.

But God gives us the details of how to carry out His plans through His _____. Paul pursued God's stated will for him in a way that honored what was taught in Scripture. He went to the Jew first, then to the Gentiles. Paul was acting _____ but in God's providence, it was _____. The synagogue was the perfect " _____ " to launch a movement into the wider Gentile city.

Paul knew to apply what God told Joshua in Joshua 1:8 and what David proclaimed in Psalm 119:105. How many _____ have gone _____ in our lives because we fail to read and implement the instructions of God's word.

We can listen well and hear the voice of God best _____ He speaks. He speaks most clearly when we _____ and when we give attention to His _____.

A Few Announcements:

The Harmony Belles will be joining us this Sunday evening, May 31, for the second of our Crossroads Concert Series. The concert will be at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Plan to come for an evening of wonderful acapella music. Bring friends and family!

Crossroads Monthly Food & Diaper Drive is next Sunday, June 7. You can use the shopping list in the bulletin or on the website to guide your purchases. Please do not donate expired items.

Celebrate Recovery – "Here I Am" – a time and place to heal from your hurts, hang-ups, and habits - will meet every Monday night, on beginning June 1, 6:00-8:30 pm in Crossroads Fellowship Hall. A light meal will be provided. Anyone interested in participating or would like to volunteer, contact Timothy Waters, at 210.571.2476.

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