

Chapter 6

Duty

In Ecclesiastes 12:13, Solomon said, *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."* After reading the first five chapters of this little book, one might think that one needs only the spectacular to build a great bus ministry. But your bus ministry will not run on the fuel of excitement forever. The things that I have shared with you about the bus meeting will be a great aid to your work and a way to receive a needed boost. It helps get your bus ministry jump started. But in no way will motivation ever take the place of duty.

Duty is the bone, the structure of the ministry; motivation is the muscle. It does not matter how much muscle you have; it is the bone that provides an anchoring point for the muscle. Without the bone, the muscle can produce very little. Duty, not motivation, determines destiny. Motivation will make duty easier, but it will never take its place. Duty has been the main characteristic of great people throughout history. Robert E. Lee once said, *"Do your duty in all things. You would not wish to do less."* Theodore Parker said, *"Let us do our duty in our shop or kitchen, in the market, the street, the office, the school, the home, just as faithfully as if we stood in the front ranks of some great battle, and knew the victory for mankind depended on our bravery, strength and skill. When we do that, the humblest among us will be serving the great army which achieves the welfare of the world."* Drake said, *"For*

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strength to bear is found in duty only . . . "

You must plant this truth in the hearts of your bus workers. Do your duty. That is what God wants us to do. It is our duty to exhaust every right means of bringing men to Christ. It is our duty to pass down to the next generation the faith that was once handed down to us. It is our duty to go into the highways and hedges of our nation and compel them to come in.

Duty is an obligation to do that which is expected of us. And God has made very clear what is expected of us in this area of keeping people out of Hell. (Matthew 28:19,20)

Let me share with you four little principles that I teach my bus workers:

1. Doing the right thing should be more important to you than the consequences.

Esther was put into a position that could have cost her life. Old wicked Haman was out to kill all the Jews and she was the only person that had a chance to reveal his wicked plan to the king. The king's law forbade anyone to approach him uninvited when he was in the inner court of his own house. But Esther had a duty that she had to do. It may have cost her life, but she had to take the chance and go into the presence of the king uninvited. In Esther 4:16 she said, ***"Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish."*** Do the right thing regardless of the consequences. Do your duty.

2. *Our motive for service to God should always be our love for Him.*

Our motive for service should not be a selfish one. To build a big church or to build a big bus route just for the sake of becoming famous would be a selfish motive. To build a big bus route just to hear the praise of men would be a selfish motive. We must remember that there is nothing so vain and fleeting as the praise of men. But to build a bus route because you love the Lord would be substantive and everlasting. If we do what we do for the Lord then it will not matter what others do to discourage us, because we are not trying to please them anyway. We are doing it for the Lord.

If we do our duty, the bus route will grow. So our motive for doing what we do is not because it works, but because it is right.

3. *Dedication should always reign over inspiration.*

A burden is a temporary motivator. Burdens come and go. Duty is always there. Inspiration is the icing on the cake. Duty is the cake. Folks who must be inspired to do things, do very little in life. Folks who must be inspired to serve others, serve very few in the course of a lifetime. Inspiration will give you a boost, but it will never give you the strength of endurance. It may yell, "Charge!" but your legs must carry you to the battle. It can shout the victory, but your body must endure the toil of the battle. Dedication should always reign over inspiration.

4. *If we neglect our duty, people will perish.*

The bus ministry is a life-or-death-situation type ministry. People are dead in their trespasses and sins. They need the Gospel

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preached to them if they will ever live. If I do not do my duty and get the gospel to a lost and dying world, many will perish in a devil's Hell.

Duty is a characteristic that is not hard to acquire. Mark Twain said, "Do something every day that you don't like to do; this is the golden rule for acquiring the habit of doing your duty without pain." Let us do our duty regardless of the consequences. Let us do it because we love Jesus. Let us allow dedication to reign over inspiration. And let us do our duty, lest the people of our cities and nation perish!