

## The Father's Business

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MVBC

Why plant trees, if I'm not going to be here?

### The Bridge Builder

An old man going a lone highway,  
Came at the evening, cold and gray,  
To a chasm, vast, and deep and wide,  
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.

The old man crossed in the twilight dim;  
The sullen stream had no fear for him;  
But he turned, when safe on the other side,  
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim, near,  
"You are wasting strength with building here;  
Your journey will end with the ending day;  
You never again will pass this way;  
You've crossed the chasm, deep and wide-  
Why build you this bridge at the evening tide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head:  
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,  
"There followeth after me today,  
A youth, whose feet must pass this way.

This chasm, that has been naught to me,  
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.  
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;  
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him."

Will Allen Dromgoole

## **SEVEN SOUL-SEARCHING QUESTIONS**

### **1. Whose business are we in?**

Luke 2:42–50

<sup>42</sup> And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. <sup>43</sup> When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know *it*; <sup>44</sup> but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among *their* relatives and acquaintances. <sup>45</sup> So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. <sup>46</sup> Now so it was *that* after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.

<sup>47</sup> And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. <sup>48</sup> So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously."

<sup>49</sup> And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" <sup>50</sup> **But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.**

- We still don't understand the statement.
- Inconvenience –He was not where they wanted Him to be.
- Inspection – this is not religion
- Identification - Father
- Inspiration – motivation, the Father's will

### **2. What is our pressure?**

#### **Jeremiah 20:9**

Then I said, "I will not make mention of Him,  
Nor speak anymore in His name."

But *His word* was in my heart like a burning fire

Shut up in my bones;  
I was weary of holding *it* back,  
And I could not

- Internal combustion engine
- Inability to harness what's on the inside
- Fill her up... stopping at the gas station in years gone by

### 3. What is the greatest influence on our life?

#### **Amos 3:8**

A lion has roared!

Who will not fear?

The Lord GOD has spoken!

Who can but prophesy?

- Peer pressure
- Love of money
- Flesh with its desires
- Word of God

Quote:

"God, how we get our fingers in each other's clay. That's friendship, each playing the potter to see what shapes we can make of each other."

— Ray Bradbury, *Something Wicked This Way Comes*

### 4. Why are we here?

#### **Luke 12:49 – 53**

<sup>49</sup> "I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! <sup>50</sup> But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished! <sup>51</sup> Do *you* suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. <sup>52</sup> For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three. <sup>53</sup> Father will be divided against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against

her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.”

- To start something
  - To stir things up
  - To be a catalyst
  - To be a lightning rod
  - To be a subject of conversation
  - To be a source of irritation
  - This leader was divisive.
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- Zig Ziegler tells about visiting the Washington Monument. As he and his party approach the monument, he heard a guide announcing loudly that there be a two-hour wait to ride the elevator to the top of the monument. However, with a smile on his face the guide then said, “there is no one waiting to go to the top if you’re willing to take the stairs. ”
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- There are three kinds of workers. For example, when a piano is to be moved, the first kind gets behind and pushes, the second polls and guides, the third grabs a piano stool.
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- Did you hear about the man who tried to run a symphony and did such a bad job they decided to electrocute him? But they couldn’t; he was such a poor conductor.

### Illustration:

Each day across the USA 50,000 people quit their jobs. In a recent survey of workers across the USA, nearly 85% said that they could work harder on the job. More than half claimed they could double their effectiveness if they wanted to.

Managing the Equity Factor, R Huseman, J Hatfield, 1989.

For Mountain View Bible Church to survive, I must do more and you must do more. We're not the Girl Scouts, fire department, snowmobile club, or American Legion.

### 5. What does the window of opportunity look like?

#### John 9:4

<sup>4</sup> I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; *the night* is coming when no one can work.

In the dim and distant past  
When life's tempo wasn't so fast,  
Grandma used to rock and knit,  
Crochet, tat and baby sit.

When the kids were in a jam,  
They could always call on Gram.  
But today she's in the gym  
Exercising to keep slim.

She's checking the web or surfing the net,  
Sending some e-mail or placing a bet.  
Nothing seems to stop or block her,  
Now that Grandma's off her rocker.

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There's quite an art to falling apart as the years go by,  
 And life doesn't begin at 40. That's a big fat lie.  
 My hair's getting thinner, my body is not;  
 The few teeth I have are beginning to rot.

I smell of Vick's-Vapo-Rub, not Chanel # 5;  
 My new pacemaker's all that keeps me alive.  
 When asked of my past, every detail I'll know,  
 But what was I doing 10 minutes ago?

Well, you get the idea, what more can I say?  
 I'm off to read the obituary, like I do every day;  
 If my names not there, I'll once again start -  
 Perfecting the art of falling apart

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## 6. Is the message imperative?

### Acts 4:20

<sup>20</sup> For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”

### Acts 18:5

<sup>5</sup> When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews *that Jesus is* the Christ.

### Acts 20:22 – 24

<sup>22</sup> And see, now I go **bound** in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup> except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that **chains** and **tribulations** await me. <sup>24</sup> But none of these things **move** me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

## 7. Can we feel the heat?

### **I Corinthians 9:16**

<sup>16</sup> For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!

Quote:

British actor Michael Wilding was once asked if actors had any traits which set them apart from other human beings. "Without a doubt," he replied, "you can pick out actors by the glazed look that comes into their eyes when the conversation wanders away from them."