



What Is Next For Us?

Step One: Stop Acts 8:1-3 (NIV)

December 1, 2024

Series Summary

1. We Should **Stop**: Have you stopped long enough to plan a new way forward?
2. We Should **Learn**: What is God and life currently teaching you?
3. We Should **Change**: Is it possible to change your perspective?
4. We Should **Celebrate**: Who can you celebrate with? (Can you celebrate Christmas?)
5. We Should **Listen**: What are our kids trying to say to us? **December 29, 2024 (Youth Emphasis)**

I. Jesus Advised the Disciples to Stop (Luke 14:28-32, NIV)

28 Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? 29 For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, **everyone who sees it will ridicule you**, 30 saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.' 31 "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 **If he is not able, he will send a delegation** while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace.

Note: Four Insights to Consider When You Stop

1. We need clear **goals and objectives** (Declare what you are building)....v28
2. We need a clear stopping **place** (Sit down, and send a delegation)....v28,31,32
3. We need a clear review of our abilities (Are you able)....v32
4. We need the right people stopping with us in order to advance (Acts 1:12-14)

II. Saul Causes the Church to Stop

(Acts 8:1-3, NIV)

...On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and **all except the apostles were scattered** throughout Judea and Samaria.² Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him.³ But **Saul began to destroy the church**. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.

III. The Disciples Were Committed to Stopping

Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city.¹³ **When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room** where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.¹⁴ They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. **(Acts 1:12-14, NIV)**

Note: What **Stopping Looked Like for The Early Church** (Acts 1)

- They stopped in the upper room after going through a season of strong **religious tension**
- They stopped after the **betrayal** of a Jesus and the disciples by Judas (for money)
- They stopped after going through **the death of Jesus on the cross**
- They stopped briefly for the ascension, **a season they could not fully understand** (Acts 1:6)

Question: Have you ever stopped to get a second wind?

IV. Why Stopping Can be a Good Thing

1. It gives you a chance to stop and properly define true happiness (From “if only..”)¹

- **If we focus** on activity, improvement, growth, acceptance, humility, flexibility, positive goals, values, and building meaningful relationships, **we can often find happiness whether we are married or single, rich or poor, living in California or Minnesota, young or old.** (Page 212)

2. It gives you a chance to review your priorities, refocus your job description and spiritual life. (Acts 2)

1When the day of Pentecost came, **they were all together in one place.**²

2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven

and filled the whole house where they were sitting. (Acts 2:1-2)

¹ If only.... Finding Freedom From Regret by Robert L. Leahy, PHD



V. An Example of a Man That Was Stopped (Acts 9)

1. He stopped after being knocked down
2. He stopped after witnessing the unjust treatment of Stephen
3. He stopped after hearing the convicting message of Stephen (Acts 7)

VI. My Personal Perspective on Why Some People Will Never Stop

1. They believe that stopping will slow down their success
2. They believe that others will run ahead of them if they stop
3. They believe stopping is a sign of being indecisive

Closing Question:

1. Will you stop?
2. Can you be stopped?
3. Have you ever been stopped?

Next Time: The Power of Learning