

## **Title: Get Fit for Our Future**

Let's talk about our mission, our vision, and how we are going to accomplish it.

Jesus himself said in **Matthew 22:37-39** “**Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and the prophets depend on these two commands.**”  
**CSB**

Love God and Love People... that is our Mission....

In **Matthew 28:19** Jesus said.... **Go therefore and make disciples of all nations. CSB**

The vision of the church is to make disciples....

Discipleship is to help people become progressively like Christ in character and conduct, in attitudes and actions.

How do we do this?

In the book of **Numbers 4:46**: “**Moses and Aaron, and the leaders of Israel registered all the Levites by their clans and their ancestral families, (47) from thirty years old to fifty years old, everyone who was qualified to do the work of serving at the tent of meeting and transporting it. (48) Their registered men numbered 8,580 (49) At the Lord's command they were registered under the direction of Moses, each one according to his work and transportation**

## **duty, and his assignment was as the Lord commanded Moses. (CSB)**

A total of 8,580 Levites were set apart for the Lord's service. This meant the work of transporting the tabernacle could be shared among them.

No one would be overburdened.

This approach should carry over into the church.

Why....because:**The Work of God is Work!!!!**

Just as 8,580 Levites were set apart for the Lord's service.

We are set apart..We no longer have to transport the physical tabernacle....but our services are still needed.....

- Greeters who are the gatekeepers of God's house.
- Praisers who pour spiritual incense on God's altar.
- Singers who create the climate of worship in His house....
- Intercessors who keep the fire on the altar .....
- Teachers of God's Word.

There were Levites who preserved and protected God's house.

There were so many duties that were required to be done to keep God's regulations and stipulations in place.

Moses and Aaron and the leaders of Israel could not do the work alone. With an estimated congregation of 2-3 million people. It was literally impossible for Moses and Aaron to do it all.

Ladies and Gentlemen.....“ God created us with work in mind. Everyone of us has a contribution to make to God’s House and to God’s World ... .We are responsible for what God has given us and accountable to use it.

We have a mission to Love God and Love People and a vision to reach 600 disciples and each of us is responsible and accountable to do our part.

Why can’t we just sit here...soak it all in, and be satisfied?

The parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14–30 tells us why.... If you don’t know this story I would encourage you to read it when you get home.

\*The King gives one worker five talents and he uses his talents to make five more talents.

\*The King gives one worker two talents and he uses his talents to make two more talents.

\*The King gives one worker one talent, the worker hides his one talent and does nothing with it.

When the King returns, he asks the workers to account for their talents.

The King rewards the first two workers and punishes the third.

This story has two meanings....one is a warning against laziness and a call to work. 2nd.. the King both rewards and punishes based on self-effort. The seed goes in the ground and it works.... Gold goes in your hand and you make it work.

## **God Honors Faithfulness, and He Rewards Fruitfulness!**

But Ladies and gentlemen here is what we know...

We want to see 600 disciples who Know God, Discover their Purpose, Find Freedom and Make a Difference with their life....

But if you don't want that, if you are not willing to work and use your talent then it won't happen.

God can do anything, but He won't do everything. God got the Israelites out of Egypt but He didn't make them go into the Promised Land....

Moses, Aaron, the leaders of Israel and hundreds of thousands of people, if not millions of people died in the wilderness. God's desire is for everyone to repent and be saved....but not everyone will.

Let me give you another example.... I would imagine Jerry Jones, the owner of the Dallas Cowboys, wants his team to win a superbowl every year.... The last time they won a Superbowl was 1996. There is a lot of speculation on why they don't win....

But here is what we do know.....Jerry Jones must have the right coaches on the sidelines and in the booth, and the right players on the field and on the bench. There is a lot of strategy that goes into winning each game.

We also know that between 175-220 people travel with an NFL team.

The 53 players on the roster, the coaching staff, doctors and medical professionals, staff responsible for communication, staff responsible for technical aspects of the game, staff responsible for equipment, staff responsible for the front office, sponsors of the team, security personnel for the team and support staff for the team...

In other words....it takes a lot of people just to manage an NFL team and it takes a lot of effort to win a SuperBowl. It takes the Money Jerry Jones has to put a winning team together.....but it takes more than just money.

It takes more than just a nice building.

The Dallas Cowboys moved into their new stadium at a cost of 1.15 billion in 2009 but they have not won a Superbowl yet.

So obviously it takes more than a billion dollars stadium, and a vision....A nice building can help but it won't make us grow.

Notice... in the OT The tabernacle was in the midst of the people but that alone was not enough to get them into the promised land.

Just as a 1.15 billion dollar stadium does not insure a superbowl win....a new building does not insure revival in our community.

It starts with Loving God/Loving people that is our mission but it doesn't end there.... It takes more than just vision....it takes strategy....

Our strategy is to increase our span of care...

People don't care how much we know, until they know how much we care.

Just as the owner of an NFL team and the coaching can't do it all..... Neither can a Pastor or small staff do it all.

In Psalm 23, we're given the powerful image of a shepherd tending his flock. The shepherd nourishes, protects, and comforts his flock of sheep.

However, if a pastor isn't careful, pastoral care can lead to burnout.

When the pastor has to visit every sick person, perform every wedding and [funeral sermon](#), attend every meeting, and lead every Bible study or group, they become incapable of doing almost anything else.

If you're a good pastor care person people will often love you so much that the church will grow to two hundred people, at which point the pastoral care expectations become crushing.

Inevitably, pastoral leaders with larger churches can't keep up and end up disappointing people when they can't get to every event anymore.

Providing pastoral for 30 people is possible. The Pastor providing care for 600 is not.

Ephesians 4:12 is the NT model..... We are called to equip you...

- High School teachers are called to equip their students.
- Coaches are called to equip their players.
- Pastors are called to equip the saints.....for what...to do the work of ministry.

To get fit for our future.... We have asked Ryan/Jaclyn Ware Tyler/Brittany Williams Mike/Kim Fontenot June Whitman/ Gwen Langley to serve as a Pastoral Care Team.....

These along with others that we will add in time will pray for you, care for you, visit you in times of need. Of course we will, David/Michell, Dan/Aubrey....but we can't meet all the needs alone.

We are asking sectional leaders to help us as well...

We want our life groups to increase so we can grow our relationships and create an environment where life transformation can happen.

We offer on Wednesday nights Financial Peace University to help us get fit in our finances.

We offer Leadership 1.0 to grow our leadership ability.

We offer an incredible Sunday School and we constantly need new teachers.

We offer an engaging youth program and you can help be a part of.

We offer Celebrate Recovery on Friday Nights.

It is a desire to see 30 people who take it upon themselves to be in the prayer room by 9:30 every Sunday morning and who are the first to step out and offer passionate worship unto the Lord.

It is our desire to see each and every one of you discover your spiritual gift and use it to compassionately serve people.

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## To see us get fit for our future requires

### **Spiritual Fitness**

Growth in personal devotion: prayer, Bible study, and worship.

### **Relational Fitness**

- Loving people starts within the Body of Christ and extends outward.

### **Missional Fitness**

- **Matthew 28:19**: “Go and make disciples of all

### **Organizational Fitness**

Leaders at every level—staff, volunteers, ministry heads—must be well-equipped and held accountable so the church runs with clarity and integrity.

### **Financial Fitness**

Proper financial planning allows resources to be directed toward kingdom-focused ministries and outreach.

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**Evangelism** – isn’t about winning arguments but sharing Christ’s love.

Getting Fit for our Future.... Means Loving God, Loving People.  
Making Disciples, and everyone one of us doing our part to  
make it happen.

Will you help us....