

Just Do It

Sermon Title: Just Do It

Sermon Number: 7466

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Thank you for joining Brothers of the Word because brother you need the Word!

We welcome all of you joining us by television and those of you joining us at AirJesus.com. Stay tuned to today's message. I would like to share just a little humor I ran across. This is actually one I told before but I ran across it and laughed again. So I thought it was worth repeating.

The three boys are in the schoolyard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem and they give him \$50.00". The second boy says, "That's nothing, my dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper. He calls it a song and they give him \$100.00. The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a sermon and it takes eight people to collect all the money."

Praise God. Just before we can turn to – We'll look at the Scripture in the Book of Ecclesiastes 9, put your finger there. But before we read our text I would like to just share my experience this week – was how this message came about but I was in the restroom one day at my office and I was kind of muttering to God as I was using the restroom, you know. God will speak to you no matter where you are. You can be in the restroom or wherever. And I was kind of muttering to God as I was using the restroom one day this week and I was muttering to him about some regrets that I had and you know I was just kind of complaining about some things that I should have done and opportunities that I should have taken and, you know just some things I wish had done.

So I was just kind of mulling all of these regrets that I had just telling God about them then all of a sudden, in the midst of my wining, I heard two words that shut me up and those two words he simply answered and said, "Do it!" And I was telling him about all of the regrets I had, all the things I haven't done, all the things, you know I was giving him the would've, could've, should've speech. You know all the things I wish I could've done and should've done and I was giving all of my regrets. Everything that I've felt that – all the opportunities I've missed and let go by, and he simply responded right in the midst. In fact, I wasn't even finished, I was still going on and he just said, "Do it." It's almost like, he just shut me up.

He shut me up, and when I heard the words, it kind of startled me because it really shut me up. Kind of similar to the way Pastor Nathaniel said – he was one day belly aching about the price of gas and God just told him to shut up. So at least mine wasn't quite as harsh as his. God just told me to do it.

And so I just want to use that as a subject. So when I heard him to do it, I thought about Nike of course, and we'll use it as a subject, "Just Do It". Turn to your neighbor and say, "Just Do It". And so I realized that God didn't want to hear me continually wine and complain about what I could've, should've, would've. And all of

my belly aching about my regrets in life and all the opportunities that I've missed and all the doors that closed on me and you know the things that I didn't pursue and the things I haven't accomplished, things that are in us. So he didn't want to hear me going on about it. He simply said, "Do it".

In other words he was saying, don't wish, do something about it. Don't wish about it, do something about it. It's not too late, in other words. It's not too late, stop wishing and start doing. Take some action, do something. Turn to your neighbor and say – Just do it. And so I realized the truth and the power of what he spoke to me and I thought about of course some scriptures. Turn over if you will with me, actually to the book of James. Flip back into the end of the New Testament to the Epistle of James, just before you get to 1st and 2nd Peter, you'll see a little book there called James, right after Hebrews. Little book with about 4 chapters in it, the Book of James and notice James said a lot of the same things, the same way God told me to do it, as we're using this subject "Just do it."

James said some of the same things in scriptures. So let's look at James 1:22 and you can see that James is a "Just do it" kind of person as well. Notice James 1:22, let's read it together in unison, Be ye doers, notice, not talkers, not complainers, not wearing it on your T-shirt or on your bumper stickers, notice what it says, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." And look at verse 25, "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." Or another translation says, "This man shall be blessed in what he does". So here James is explicitly saying, just do it.

Just do it, don't just read the Bible, don't just hear the Bible, don't just hear it preached, don't just see it on a bumper sticker or wear it on a T-shirt, don't just sing about it. No, he says, the power comes when you do it. Turn to your neighbor and say, just do it.

Somebody said, this quarter, I never forgot it. They said preach the gospel wherever you go. Use words if you have to. In other words, they were saying – Just do it. Just live the gospel, you don't really have to say very much, just do it.

Also in James 2 he said something else about doing it. James 2, turn to your neighbor and say – he said something else about doing it. James 2:26 read that in unison with me, "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." So, once again, he's saying you've got to do something. Turn to your neighbor and say, you have to do something. Just do it.

So right in the midst of my complaining and mulling over all of the opportunities that I missed and the door that have been closed and things I could've would've should've done and all of these things. God simply said do it. In other words it's not

too late. You can still release some potential that's in you. You can still reach some goals, you can still strive and fulfill some dreams. You can still take advantage of some opportunities. You can still use some gifts, you can still use some talents, it's not too late. In other words, God will say – What are you talking about? I'm sure he was sitting in heaven like – What are you talking about? You can still do it, just do it. Turn to your neighbor and say just do it.

Just do it, it's not too late. I like something that Richard Duval said, he said, the only thing that stands between a man and what he wants from life is often merely the will to try and the faith to believe that it is possible. That's the only thing that stands between a man and what he wants from life, it's the will to try and the faith to believe that it is possible.

Let me ask you some questions. What is it that you've always wanted to do and you haven't done? What regrets do you have? What is it that you wish you had done? There are so much in us that we have not accomplished, so much in us that we have not used. You know science tells us that we don't even use 10% of our brains. Why did you get all that big head for, you're not using? What's the other 90% of that gray matter sitting on your shoulder you're not using?

Notice, we have so much that's not used, so much that's not tapped, so much in us that we haven't done yet. And it's really exciting when I thought about it. When God just said, do it and let me know that there is so much in us. We haven't done and haven't tapped in to. Possibilities are unlimited, I mean the future is so filled with promise; the potential is so rich, inside of us. There are songs folks we've never sung. There are books we haven't even read yet. There are sermons we haven't preached. Folks, there are ideas that we haven't brought out. Folks there are businesses that we haven't started. There are creations we haven't even invented yet. Folks we are rich with possibilities! We are rich with potential! We are rich with so much that lies on the inside of us! And God is simply saying – Just do it!

Just do it, it's not too late. It is not too late, you haven't missed it yet. Just do it! Your life is not over yet. Turn to your neighbor and say – Just do it.

There was a group of elderly people, people who are 85, 90, 95 years old and they interviewed them and said, if you can do life all over again, what is the one thing that you would change? And this was the overwhelming response of the group – They all said, we wish we would have taken more risks. We wish we would have tried more stuff. We wish we would have got on the edge and little more life and dared to do something big, dared to do something we dreamed of doing but we never did it. That was the number one regret of that group of elderly people.

And so what I'm saying to you – Don't allow your life to come to the end and you've filled up with regret. No, just do it. I heard a story of a lady. She was 90 years old in

a Senior Citizen's home and she finally decided, finally dawned on her one day to use her gift of singing. She was an opera singer but she never sung publicly. She had just kept that gift and so in the nursing home, in the last few years of her life – they said she sang like an angel. She sang like an angel and it was the most beautiful and people came from all over to pack that nursing home just to hear her sing. She almost waited too late but she got it out.

Folks don't wait until you get in the nursing home. You don't even have to wait that late. No, just do it. Just do it. Turn to your neighbor and say – Just do it.

I read something interesting. A Roman Scholar by the name of Kato, he started to study Greek when he was more than 80 years old and when he was asked why he was tackling such a difficult subject or test as his age. They asked and they said, "Why are you trying to take on this difficult task at your age?" And this was his reply, he said, "It's the earliest age I have left". He said, it's the earliest age I have left. I love his attitude. He was going to do it. He was going to do it,

He knew it wasn't too late, he was going to do it while he still had time. Turn over to Ecclesiastes, that's where I had told you originally before you all got me over in the book of James. I don't know how you got me in James, I told you to go to Ecclesiastes. We'll go to Ecclesiastes chapter 9 look at verse 10. This is a verse the Holy Spirit just sort of brought to my mind, brought to my heart, and brought to my spirit. Ecclesiastes 9:10, notice what it says, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, (There it is) do it (I said okay Holy Spirit, I'm not the first person you told this to I see. He said this way back – Nike didn't originate that. Notice this now, God said this way back in Ecclesiastes) Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest."

In other words he's saying, if you don't use it now, it's not going to be any good because you can't use it in the grave. He said, God is giving you anything, if you found anything to your liking. Anything that you're good at, any opportunity, he said take it, use it, do it because if you wait too long you are going to be in the grave and it's not going to benefit anybody, not even you because the graveyard is full of un-used potential and un-used gifts and talents. It's the richest place on earth, it's the graveyard.

And so, Ecclesiastes 9:10, he says – Hey, take advantage of life. Take advantage of time while you have it, do it. Do what's in your heart, do what you thought was too late to do. Do what you thought it was too late to do. Do what you've been afraid to do. Do what you've had an inkling to do. Do what you've had, an ability to do. Do what you've have a gifting to do. Do what you had an opportunity to do. Don't shrink back. Don't miss out. No, do it. Just do it, is what he's saying.

I like something, somebody said this, somebody wrote this. I don't know who it was but I got it. I like Edwin Lewis Cole, he said the first time when an author writes something, when you're – at the first time, you give them the credit. So you say, you know, like John Doe said. He said the second time you quote them, you say like someone always say, and he said the third time you quote and you say like I always say.

So, I'm taking this, I don't know who wrote it but like I always say. Listen to this, he's speaking about something but it relates to Ecclesiastes 19 but it's very similar. Notice what he says. He says, I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now, let me not differ or neglect it for I shall not pass this way again. He said, I'm going to do any good, if I'm going to make any difference. He said, I might as well do it and I might as well do it now because I only one shot to live.

I'm only going to be on this earth one time. Folks this is it, whether you know it or not, you don't get a second chance at life. This is it. This is not a dress rehearsal. Folks this is it, your living life right now. And when this time is up and when you're in the grave. It is too late to use what God had put in you to use. And so, this guy says, he said, - If I'm going to do any good, if I'm going to benefit anybody, bless anybody, he said, I might as well do it now because I'm only going to pass this way one time. Think about that, you've got to keep that in your mind as you live your life. I'm only going to pass this way one time.

So if I'm going to do any good I might as well start doing it now. And if I'm going to use what God has given me. I better start using it now. I'm not coming on this side of the earth anymore. Folks you are not going to see me, once I go on to be with the Lord in glory. We're not coming this way any longer. You know, we're got one shot. We have one shot at life and so he says, we're not travelling this way anymore. Oh, if I'm going to do anything, I might as well do it. I might as well do it.

Turn to your neighbor and say, "Just do it." You might as well do it. So if one of you fail, if you don't do it, you failed anyway. You've got nothing to lose. I heard a man, his Mama had cancer and he wanted her to go try this special treatment. He said, Mama, he said, you ain't got nothing to lose. If you don't go, you are going to die. If the treatment don't work you're going to die. What have you got to lose Mama? And Mama went on and had the treatment and it cured her of cancer.

Oh I'm telling you folks, you better do it. You better do it while you've got the chance. Take the risk, do it, do it, do it. You only live one time. You only come this way one time. Do it folks, this makes you live with a little bit more zest. It makes you live with a little bit. When you understand you only pass this way one time.

I heard another author say, he said, everyday, you ought to listen to a piece of music. He said everyday you ought to listen to a good piece of music. He said everyday you ought to read a portion of a great book. He said everyday you ought to – in other words he is saying, take advantage of each day. Appreciate each day, each moment, cherish it. Life is precious, days are short.

In other words, live it to the fullest, take advantage of life while you have this. Take advantage of life while you have it. He says, never let a day pass without looking at some perfect work of art. Or in other words appreciate the beauty of art while you can, while you can see it, while you can hold it, not necessarily on a canvass but walk outside and look at God's creation. He's the master artist.

Appreciate a work of art everyday. Appreciate some great piece of music, some great music everyday. If you don't have any music, go to IvanStinson.com. You can listen to some great music. Listen to a great piece of music everyday. Read a part of a great book everyday. In other words, live life to the fullest everyday while you have it, while you have the opportunity. Just do it. Just do it. If there is a gift or talent that you haven't used, if there is a goal that you haven't reached for, if there is a dream that is unfulfilled – Folks, just do it.

You should make up your mind that as you are laid into the ground in a casket that you go there empty because you have used everything that God deposited in your life to be a blessing to mankind, to bless the earth, to bless the world, you use all of your gifts and talents. You used all of everything. You used all of your creativity and all of your ability, all of your thinking, you've tried all of your ideas. You did everything, you bless people, you went everywhere. You saw everything.

Folks when you slide into that casket, you want to be just in such a state of contentment to say, here's the body that's empty because I've used everything. God gave me while I had the time, while I had the chance. Do it, use it, do it.

Turn to your neighbor and say, "Just do it". Oh, you don't want to live a life where you end up with so many regrets at the end of your life, just do it. Do it while you have the chance. Don't mope around worrying about healthy issues or financial issues or relationship issues. No don't mope around about them. No, do something about it. That's what God, that's what the Holy Spirit whispered to me when I was griping and complaining. He said – Do it!

In other words he's saying – do it, do it – it's in your power, you can do something about them, don't just talk about illness and hide your feeling bad. No, do something about it. Do something about it. Don't just talk about how bad your financial situation is. No, do something about it. Don't talk about how bad your relationship is. No, do something about it, just do it. Do it, do it.

Commit yourself to it and take action. Commit yourself to it and take action. Now, we'll do Part 2. I was kind of afraid of this one. I got into this, and I said Lord, I'm not going to be able to get all this out at one – so we'll do part two. Next time, I'll share some things with you to help you to just do it. Some practical things that just help you to do it, to get some things done, that you've always wanted to do, to stretch yourself, to broaden yourself and so, we'll look at some things next time about, "Just doing it".

You know most of the time, we already know what to do, we just don't do it. Most of the time, we already know what to do. See, our greatest need is not to be informed, our greatest need is to be reminded. So it's not new knowledge that you need necessarily. Folks, it's doing what you already know to do. Turn to your neighbor and say – Just do it.

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