

A lady lost her handbag in the bustle of Christmas shopping. It was found by an honest little boy and returned to her. Looking in her purse, she commented, "Hmmm.... That's funny. When I lost my bag there was a \$20 bill in it. Now there are twenty \$1 bills."

The boy quickly replied, "That's right, lady. The last time I found a lady's purse, she didn't have any change for a reward."

Revelation 22:10 says, "See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work."

Do you expect rewards in Heaven? How do you change your life for rewards?

We've all had the job one time or another of taking pictures. When you do, you want to make sure that the image you are trying to capture is in focus. If you get a smeared image, you would take a picture again to get the image you want.

Likewise, sometimes we have to refocus our lives so that we get the image that God wants us to have.

Henry Blackaby says in *Seven Realities for Experiencing God*, "you must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing."

In the New Testament reading, an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go." Philip was enjoying astounding success as an evangelist in a Samaritan city. When he proclaimed the message of the Messiah, people heard what he had to say. He performed the miracles, the clear signs of God's action. Many who could neither stand nor walk were healed that day. At this moment, the Holy Spirit instructed him to go to the desert in spite of the success he was experiencing. He

might want to stay in the city, proclaim the good news and perform miracles. However, when God spoke to him, he made the adjustment from his way to God's way.

God calls all of us to major adjustments in our lives in order to join God in what God is doing. To move from our way of thinking or acting to God's way of thinking or acting always requires adjustments. We can't stay where we are and go with God at the same time.

There are just some people who are inherently conservative. They don't like change. They don't want to embrace new ways. Here is An illustration. A man went to the doctor. After the examination the doctor came into the room and said: Sir, Would you please spell DIET? He started: D-I-E... Then the doctor said to him, "stop right there. You are going to die if you don't start watching what you eat and change your exercise life style. He heard the doctor and went home. He sat in the lazy boy recliner and had his wife bring him food. In a few months the man weighted more than 350 pounds and could not get out of his chair. Someone had to care for him. In 6 months, his friends attended his funeral. Is this a sad story? What makes this a sad story? He did not make any change according to doctor's suggestion.

God wants us to make major changes to orient our lives to God. God calls us out of the comfort zone to make major adjustments and to join Him in His work. Every one of us. Every one, no matter who we are! Noah became a boat builder. God called the teenager David from the quiet of a shepherd boy's life to the turbulence of the throne of Israel. God called Abraham out of the comforts of his father's lands in Ur to begin a new nation. Peter, Andrew, James, and John left their fishing

business to follow Jesus and became fishers of men. Matthew left his tax collecting career to follow Jesus. Saul of Tarsus completely turned his life around in order to follow Jesus.

All of them experienced a risk, a change, and an adjustment. And all of us, too. No exceptions. So, what are some of the adjustments we are going to have to make? In what ways do we need to change?

God may ask you to make less dramatic adjustments. Maybe you have some pet sin you need to abandon. Maybe God just wants you to be a better father or mother. A parent's first responsibility is to rear their children to follow God. Maybe God wants you for the ministry or to teach a Sunday School class or youth group, or to sing in the choir. Maybe God wants to work through you to change the world for the better. You'll never know unless you make the adjustments God requires. God has a place for everyone in His work and there are no assignments that are unimportant if they come from God.

God may be calling upon you today to make certain adjustments in your plans, purposes, and thinking in order to bring them into line with His will. Are you willing to make that adjustment?