

FIT FOR THE MASTER'S USE

JEREMY PEARSONS

DAY 1 – HEART STRONG

In order to be fit for the Master's use, you must be fit for the fight of faith. God wants to make you strong in every area of life: marriage, finances, relationships and more. In order to do that, you must be fully persuaded of God's promises and have a strong heart toward God.

STUDY IT

- I. In order to be fit for the Master's use, you must be fit for the fight of faith.
 - We are vessels that need to be fit and prepared for God's use and every good work (2 Timothy 2:20-21).
 - We are to be constantly engaged in the contest of faith with excellent and beautiful technique (1 Timothy 6:12, *Wuest*).
 - Some people have disengaged from the fight of faith. It's time to re-engage—to live, talk and walk by faith.
 - Be intent on making an impact, and becoming fit for the Master's use.
 - When you are doing what God has called you to do, it is satisfying and blessed. Get prepared for every good work. There is no greater work, than to do what God has called you to do.
 - Ask yourself these questions: Are you fit? Can God use you? Are you in shape, ready for the work?
 - Abraham was strong in faith, because he focused on God's promises, not his own weaknesses (Romans 4:19-25).
 - There is a way that *seems* right, but it leads to death. Focusing on what you see in the natural world leads to your destruction (Proverbs 14:12).
 - We don't live by sight, we live by faith.
- II. Become fully persuaded.
 - Abraham was *fully* persuaded by God's promise.
 - Agrippa told Paul that he was *almost* persuaded to become a Christian. *Almost* is not good enough (Acts 26:28).
 - The Jews wandered in the wilderness, because they refused to be persuaded to believe God's promises (Hebrews 3:19).



- God is able to work His will in our lives if we will be *fully* persuaded and willing to be strong in faith.

III. You need a strong heart toward God.

- Stronger is better. God wants to make you strong in every area of life: marriage, finances, relationships and more.
 - David would have lost heart, had he not believed the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 27:13).
 - Wait on the Lord. He will strengthen you (Psalm 27:14).
 - You need a strong heart, not a weak one. Every coach is looking for someone with heart, someone who won't quit.
 - God looks on the heart, not on the outward appearance (1 Samuel 16:7).
 - If you are weak or fearful in an area, allow God to strengthen you. Go back and face the task. Don't allow past experiences to limit your expectations.
 - You can move from weak-hearted to strong-hearted, if you just take courage and believe God!

Additional scriptures: 1 Samuel 2:30; 1 John 4:17; Luke 21:27

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Identify areas in your life where you are fearful or have weak faith. Find promises from God's Word that address these issues. Write that you will choose to believe God in these areas, so that you can become a vessel of gold fit for the Master's use.





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DAY 2 - CHOOSING TO LIVE WITH VISION

Trust God to reveal His plan and vision for you! No matter where you're at in life, God has a bigger work for you that will demand a greater supply than you currently have. Walk toward the vision in faith, and He will provide and strengthen your heart to do what He's calling you to.

STUDY IT

- I. God will strengthen your heart to do what He has called you to do.
 - Wait on the Lord, and He will strengthen your heart (Psalm 27:13-14).
 - Be ready and in shape for Jesus to use you (2 Timothy 2:20-21).
 - Many are called but few are chosen, because they are not ready (Matthew 22:14).
 - Something is coming that's going to require you to be in stronger shape spiritually than you're in right now.
 - God is looking for someone who has a strong heart, who won't quit.
 - Fear causes people to be weak (Luke 21:26).
 - Fear has expectations of failure and of a bad outcome. Faith brings expectations of hope.
 - Don't let fear or past experiences limit your expectation of the future.
 - There's no faith in fear, and without faith you can't please God (Hebrews 11:6).
- II. Beware of getting stuck where you are right now. God always has a vision for more.
 - There are two reasons people get stuck in life.
 1. They believe that it won't get better—they have no faith.
 - It's important to say, "No matter what I've been through, God is greater!" Take one step and then another toward what God has called you to do.
 - Abraham didn't consider his body or his wife's infertility; his past had nothing to do with his future (Romans 4:19-22).
 2. People believe that it can't get any better than it is right now. Everything's going great.
 - God asks them to leave their comfort zone and take a step of faith.



- They refuse because they won't believe God's will could be better than what they have right now.

III. God will give you a revelation of His vision for your life.

- Without a vision, or revelation, or divine guidance, people cast off restraint and perish (Proverbs 29:18, *KJV, NASV, NIV, NLT*).
- God's vision is always larger than what you can get done on your own.
 - To accomplish the vision, you will need to go to God for the resources to meet the additional needs.
 - God has no problem putting you in a place that requires faith. The only way to carry out the vision is total dependence on Him.
 - As long as your vision can be taken care of by your resources, you are not depending on God.

IV. The vision and the supply to accomplish the vision come by faith in God.

- Walking by faith does not mean you don't have any more needs.
- It's not humility and it's not faith to ask for only what you need. God's not going to thank you for your lack of faith!
- God is honored when you ask for a big supply.
- Get out of the boat of comfort and safety. Walk by faith on the strong foundation of the Word of God (Matthew 14:28-29).
- Find out what God's vision is for you and begin taking steps toward it. How do you get from here to there? Keep walking!

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Is God's vision for your life greater than where you are right now? Seek the Lord and ask Him to show you His plan. Write what your vision is and a confession of how you will trust God to meet every need connected with the vision.

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DAY 3 – TURN FAITH FORWARD

God has a vision for everyone's life, but each person must decide to embrace it by faith. As the big vision God has for your life stretches before you, don't look back in fear, but turn your faith forward, and finish strong!

STUDY IT

- I. God has a vision for everyone's life, and each person must make a choice to live by faith or draw back.
 - Some people live without a vision (Proverbs 29:18, *NIV*).
 - When they are confronted with God's vision for their lives, they only see the demands to make it happen, and they become afraid.
 - Every believer will come face to face with God's vision for his or her life.
 - Will you choose to go for it by faith, or will you draw back?

- II. When God gives us a vision, it often looks too big for us to accomplish, because we don't see it like He does, *yet*. As you walk by faith toward your vision, God will reveal the unknown to you one step at a time.
 - Children are small of stature and cannot see what adults see. Sometimes adults will lift them up, so they can see all around. It can be sensory overload for the children.
 - Children can see what the parents see; yet not see *how* their parents see. They don't have the perspective to understand what they are seeing, and they can become afraid.
 - God sometimes lifts us up to see what He sees, yet because we don't see *how* He sees, there is an opportunity for great fear.
 - Right then we need to choose that we will trust God and go His way.
 - God told Abram to leave home. Abram had to choose either his comfortable situation, or the unknown future of following God (Genesis 12:1-3).
 - We can see how God sees as we keep living by faith. Soon the unknown that looked fearful is revealed.
 - Our life's goal should be that whatever is big to God, or whatever is small to Him, make it so to us, so we can be fit, ready and prepared for every good work.
 - You may not be ready now, but if you'll trust God, He'll help you get ready.



- III. To be fit for the Master's use, you must not look back, but be moving forward to your future and focused on accomplishing the vision God has planned for your life.
- Some people were not fit for Jesus' use (Luke 9:57-62).
 - You are loved by Jesus, and called by God, but are you fit? Are you looking back?
 - Jesus set His face toward the ascension, looking forward. He knew death, hell and the grave were on the way, yet His direction was set by the expectation of His return to heaven.
 - People could see that Jesus was determinedly looking forward, His path set to complete the will of God.
 - What are people observing about you? Are you looking back, or are you set toward the future? Let go of the past! Faith is always moving forward, step by step.
 - People should see a determination about you to follow the vision of God. Press toward the mark of the high call of God that's in Jesus for you (Philippians 3:14).
 - Don't be afraid of the need that goes along with the vision. Walk in faith, step by step, and turn your faith forward!

Additional Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 5:7; 2 Timothy 2:20-21; Matthew 20:16

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Make this declaration:

I refuse to be afraid of the steps that stretch before me as I follow Jesus' vision for my life. My God will meet every need that arises, and I will walk by faith to be fit for the Master's use and to accomplish every good work!



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DAY 4 - LEAVE THE NET

Jesus is looking for people who will step out in faith and put Him first, right now. Teach your children how to trust God's vision and supply for their lives. Be willing to leave the net of supplying for yourself, and trust that Jesus will be there to take care of you and keep you.

STUDY IT

- I. Jesus is looking for people who will put Him first and step out in faith, right now.
 - Some people have a strong draw toward home. They don't want to step out.
 - In Luke 9 when Jesus gave the invitation to "follow Me," both men basically said, "Yes," but they wanted to go home first. They said, "Let me first..." (Luke 9:57-62).
 - Jesus is looking for people who will put Him first. The invitation was for NOW!
 - One wanted to go back home and be with his father until he died. It wasn't about being at a funeral, it was about securing the approval of his dad.
 - Another wanted to go back home and tell his family. He wasn't ready to leave home.
 - Nothing comes before Jesus. Don't have a "me first" mentality. Don't put Jesus off any more.
 - As long as there is something else to do in *your* plan before submitting to the plan of God, you're not ready.

- II. Teach your children to rely on God to accomplish His plan for their lives and trust Him for their supply.
 - Fathers, encourage your children to follow the call of God in their lives. Be willing to let them walk with God. Ask the Lord for words to speak to guide them, so they can hear the Lord speak to them about His vision for them.
 - Children are visionaries; they dream big. They are not intimidated by cost because they haven't had to support themselves.
 - At the appropriate time, parents should wean children off of dependence upon them, and onto a dependence on God for their supply.
 - Rather than teaching them the value of a dollar, teach them the value of a dollar sown into the gospel.



III. Be willing to step out in faith toward the vision. Reject the thought that you need something to fall back on in case following Jesus doesn't work.

- Jesus found fishermen fishing and mending their nets (Mark 1:16-20).
- Their nets were the tools they needed to support themselves and their families. Fishing was a family business.
- Jesus said, "Follow Me," and they immediately left their source of supply and obeyed Him.
- These men were willing to work without a net, with nothing to fall back on in case following Jesus didn't work out. Jesus was saying, "Let Me be your net."

Additional Scriptures: 2 Timothy 2:20-21; 1 Corinthians 9:26; Matthew 19:21-22

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Determine to be like James and John who immediately left what they were doing to follow Jesus. It's a precious thing to hear Jesus say, "Follow Me."

Are there things in your life you need to let go to follow Jesus? If so, write what needs to be changed: _____



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DAY 5 - SHAKE THE DUST

Jesus gave us examples and basic instructions to prepare for the work He has called us to do. But, if we stop working, because it's too hard, or we want to go back to our old lives, we are not fit for the work. Continue to follow Jesus, and don't abandon His work. If you encounter those who will not receive you, move on and stay in love.

STUDY IT

- I. In Luke 9:51-57, Jesus gives us an example of preparing for the work He has called us to do.
 - Jesus had work to do, but He was focused on His ascension.
 - He set His face toward being with God, and we should set our faces in that direction, too.
 - Jesus sent out messengers to prepare the people to receive Him. The people didn't receive Jesus, so the ministry team moved on to the next village.
 - His disciples, James and John, wanted to judge the people for not receiving them.
 - Jesus rebuked them, saying that the Son of Man didn't come to destroy lives, but to save them.
 - When someone doesn't receive you, and the work God has called you to, move on in love.
 - Jesus met people on His journey and asked them to follow Him, but they were not ready or fit for His use.
 - These people were loved by Jesus and called by Him, but they weren't ready for His use, because they still had things to do first.
 - If you still have things to do before you can answer the call of Jesus, you're not ready.
 - Jesus said that no one having put his hand to the plow and looking back is fit for the kingdom.

- II. Like Jesus said in the illustration about the plow, you are not yet fit or ready to do the work God has called you to, if you stop plowing and look back.
 - A plow is used to break up hard ground in order to sow seed. You can't sow seed until the ground is plowed.



- Once people start plowing in the work God has called them to, they realize that it is harder than they thought it would be. The temptation becomes to quit, turn back and go back home. But, if they keep plowing, they will eventually be able to plant seed.
- If you turn back, you won't be able to plant seed, you will not reap a harvest, and you can't be used by Jesus.

III. Barnabas and Saul/Paul were separated to the work of the Lord to visit cities to preach and plow new ground for the seed of the gospel to be planted. John Mark accompanied them on their missionary journey, but he abandoned the mission and returned home (Acts 12:25).

- The team went to city after city, and it was very hard work. They met a man who tried to discourage them. Shortly after, John Mark departed and went back to Jerusalem. He put his hand to the plow but turned back (Acts 13:1-13).
- Later, Paul wanted to return to some of these newly established churches to see how they were doing. Barnabas wanted to take John Mark again, but Paul didn't believe John Mark would be useful.
 - This caused division between Barnabas and Paul, and they went their separate ways (Acts 15:36-38).
- Later, we learn in 2 Timothy, that John Mark changed, and Paul knew that he was ready to be used in the kingdom. He asked Timothy to send John Mark to him (2 Timothy 4:9-11).
 - This is a great example of someone who became useful to God. If you're not in shape right now, you can get in shape.
- Jesus sent 70 ministers out and gave basic instructions for ministry that are useful for us today (Luke 10:1-11).
 - Jesus told them to heal the sick and to preach the kingdom of God has come near.
 - Jesus instructed them to shake the dust from their feet and move on, if the city did not receive them.

IV. When you're living God's call on your life, you will encounter those who do not receive you. You must "shake the dust" off and move on in love.

- When you're plowing and working in God's calling for your life, the work can be hard. You get dusty plowing around.
- If people do not receive you, move on; but don't carry the experience of their reaction with you to the next place. Don't get caught up in what you did wrong. Forgive, move on and continue your work in love.
- Don't turn back or look back, because soon you will be able to sow seed in the ground you've plowed, and it will produce a harvest.
 - You will reap fruit from the seed you've sown, if you will stay the course and don't quit.





- God will begin to work on those with hardened hearts where you were diligent to plow.
- Plow your ground, shake the dust off, and don't quit!

Additional Scriptures: Genesis 19:26; 2 Timothy 2:20-21

MAKE IT PERSONAL

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