

## **The Family Prayer Center**

615 Nassau Street  
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### **“Straitened” in Our Call – March Letter 2024**

Dear Friend,

Jesus said something very peculiar in Luke chapter 12.

**Luke 12:49** I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled?

**Luke 12:50** But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!

Jesus uses the word “straitened” to describe His mental disposition regarding the assignment that God had given Him. Notice that He does not use the word spelled “straightened” as in something being made straight like in a line. Rather, he uses the word spelled “straitened” which means something totally different. The word “straitened” in the English language means “to make strait or narrow, to hem in or confine, to restrict in freedom or scope.” But probably more important is the original definition out of the Greek.

The Greek word “synéchō” defines the word “straitened” as “to hold together, compress, arrest, compel, constrain, or preoccupy.” These are just some of the words that define this particular word.

The baptism that Jesus referred to when He spoke these words was in regard to His assignment of giving His life for the redemption of mankind.

Using this particular definition of the word “straitened,” it would not be out of context to paraphrase what Jesus said as this:

“I have an assignment from God that must be accomplished, and I am totally preoccupied and narrowly focused with that assignment until it is accomplished.”

One of the favorite phrases that God is using among the camp of Revivalists these days is the phrase “laser focused.” This phrase comes from an understanding of how defining or restrictive a laser beam is when focused against an object.

To use this phrase in the context of this verse, we could also say that Jesus was saying, “I have an assignment from my Father, and I am totally laser focused until it is completed.”

**THE CLOSER HE GOT TO THE END OF HIS MINISTRY, THE MORE LASER FOCUSED HE BECAME.**

**Luke 9:51** And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,

**Luke 9:52** And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him.

**Luke 9:53** And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem.

The Samaritans refused to receive Jesus into their city to give Him lodging and provisions. The reason why they rejected Him is because He had, in essence, set His face towards Jerusalem. In other words, He had no plans to stay in Samaria, but was only passing through. He had a total determination towards His assignment.

The prophetic word given from God to the “Hearing Church” today is to become “Straitened in Our Call!” God is asking us to allow Him to rearrange our schedules because we are entering into the final phases in preparation for the outpouring of His Spirit. The schedules, allowances, and even directives of the past by the Holy Spirit are being changed in this final phase to give birth to something never seen or experienced before. The acceptable is quickly evolving into the unacceptable. It is no longer acceptable under this present grace to make appointments, accept invitations, or to do outside ministry without first consulting the inward leadership of the Holy Spirit.

The closer that the Church gets to God’s perfect plan for Revival, the more things change to meet that perfect plan. God does not change! But His plans to fulfill His will often change from what He expects of us and from how He once led us in the past.

There’s no better example than the above mentioned scripture. In Luke chapter 9, Jesus was straitened in His focus in going towards Jerusalem. He was on assignment from God and that assignment narrowed His focus. There were no stops to be made in Samaria, although in John chapter 4, the word tells us that His assignment at that time was to go through Samaria.

**John 4:3** He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee.

**John 4:4** And he must needs go through Samaria.

At this earlier point in Jesus’ ministry, the Holy Spirit had Him not only go to Samaria, but actually spend some days there ministering and evangelizing the people. But John chapter 4 is in the first year of His three-year ministry. Luke chapter 9 is in the third year and final phase of Jesus’ ministry according to a chronology study. What was the difference? Jesus was in a STRAIT concerning His assignment. Everything else had changed. What mattered at that time was only the things that were laser focused towards completing His assignment. Samaria was once the assignment of God, but now it had to be circumvented for something far greater so that all men could be saved.

THE CLOSER WE GET TO THE END, THE ONCE PERFECT WILL OF GOD WILL OFTEN DROP DOWN TO ONLY THE ACCEPTABLE WILL OF GOD.

Another one of my favorite examples of Jesus being totally laser focused comes in the last week of His ministry. In John chapter 12, we find this story. Keep in mind that this takes place in the last week just before Jesus is crucified.

**John 12:20** And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast:

**John 12:21** The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.

**John 12:22** Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus.

**John 12:23** And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.

**John 12:24** Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

**John 12:25** He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

**John 12:26** If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will *my* Father honour.

These were Greeks (non-Jewish men) that had come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover feast. The Bible would describe these as proselytes. These were Gentiles who were seeking a spiritual inheritance among the Jews. When they heard of the teachings of Jesus, they became incredibly interested. These men then came to Philip asking for an appointment with Jesus. Philip then asked Andrew to help him present this request to Jesus.

On the surface, it appears that Jesus is oblivious to their request in His response. We never read where Jesus accepted the invitation for an appointment; instead, He gave this laser focused response:

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Jesus knew that the Greeks wanted to know if they could have an inheritance in Him as well as the Jews. Did all His teachings include them as well as everyone else? Jesus was not ignoring them, but could not stop to make an appointment with them. Every minute and every second were valuable in completing His assignment. He rather pinpointed their question and gave them an answer that would be shared to them by Philip and Andrew. He (Jesus) was to become the corn or seed of wheat that was to be planted in the ground through death. And if He was planted, He would bring forth the fruit of salvation for all men! Yes, they would be included! But Jesus was “straitened in His assignment!” He could not stop for the appointment.

This brings us to where you and I are today in our assignment from Heaven. We are to become more narrowly focused than ever before. This does not mean that we should become like Tibetan monks that hide themselves from the rest of the world, but we are to carefully consider every portion of our life going forward under the umbrella of our spiritual assignment in receiving Revival. This simply means that we ought to carefully inspect the leadership of the Holy Spirit in

all matters regarding time. “If I accept the invitation, how will it affect my assignment from God today?” Sometimes the invitation is the assignment, but other times it’s just a deterrent to keep you from being laser focused. “If I start this project, go on this vacation, or make this appointment, what does it mean in my being straitened in my assignment?”

Dear friend, you and I have received a special invitation straight from the heart of our Heavenly Father. He has asked us to come away with Him into a place of intimacy and fellowship that will birth the greatest Revival this planet has ever known. The Harvest from this Revival will produce over a billion souls for the Kingdom. Personally, this is one invitation I have accepted and am committed to keeping. And I am confident that you feel the same way.

**YOU AND I ARE STRAITENED IN OUR CALL UNTIL IT IS COMPLETED!**

Candy and I appreciate so much your labors of love in prayer and support in helping us complete our assignment. You are always on our hearts and in our prayers.

**I WILL SEE YOU IN THE REVIVAL!**

Blessings,  
Pastor Bronc