

41. Assertive Vandalism

When the fearful Greek warriors of ancient times came ashore as marines for a raid, sometimes the order would go out from the commander to, “Burn the boats!” The warriors knew from that point on it was victory or death. There was to be no surrender, no turning back. Commitment to the mission was 100%. Cortez burnt the boats of his conquistadors on the coast of Mexico; the result was that his small army conquered the Aztec empire.

If you are passionate about Christian teaching, you will burn some boats. Friendships and activities that drain you, or compromise your faith life and profession, must go. Lifestyle choices that involve a poor diet and inadequate exercise, hamper your ministry, as does excess TV, reading of much trash literature, and wiling away time in gossip. What gets between you and your daily Bible reading and quiet time with God? Burn it, modify the relationship that impairs this appointment with your Lord. Then you are in a position to share these disciplines and this passion with your students, so they can do likewise. A positive assertive “No!”-- so that you can say a stoic “Yes” to the things of the Kingdom can make an ordinary ministry an extraordinary one. The world, and all the allures of Vanity Fair, call out to you on the other shore burn your boats and all bridges, and stride forward on the shoreline of God’s domain.



*Though none go with me, I still will follow
No turning back, no turning back.*

*And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence,
and the violent take it by force. **Matthew 11:12***

*Jesus said, "No procrastination. No backward looks. You can't put God's kingdom off till
tomorrow. Seize the day. **Luke 9:62***

*But Lot's wife looked back as she was following along behind him, and she became a
pillar of salt. **Genesis 19:26***

*No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to
one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. **Matthew 6:24***

*The people of the world will hate you because you belong to me, for they don't know God
who sent me. **John 15:21***

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