

DAY FOUR — Keep Your Hands on the Plow

Scripture: Luke 9:62

“No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

Following Jesus is not only about where you’ve been—it’s about where you’re headed.

When Jesus spoke these words, the people listening immediately understood the picture.

A farmer cannot plow a straight row while constantly turning around. The moment his eyes leave what’s ahead, the rows become crooked. Jesus wasn’t being harsh. He was teaching something powerful:

Direction matters. Focus matters. Forward movement matters.

Many of us don’t realize how much energy we spend looking backward.

Looking back at who hurt us.

Looking back at opportunities we missed.

Looking back at seasons that felt easier.

Looking back at who we used to be.

And eventually we become exhausted—not because the future is hard, but because we are trying to walk forward while carrying yesterday.

Jesus invites us into something different.

He calls us to keep our hands on the plow.

That means continuing to trust when answers haven't come.

Continuing to obey when progress feels slow.

Continuing to believe when emotions say otherwise.

Continuing to move even when we cannot see the full harvest.

Plowing is not glamorous work.

It is repetitive.

It requires endurance.

It demands consistency.

But plowing prepares the ground for growth.

What feels ordinary today may be preparing something extraordinary tomorrow.

Many people quit too early because they confuse preparation with failure.

Seeds planted underground look invisible—until one day they break through.

Do not underestimate the value of staying faithful.

The future God has for you is usually built one faithful day at a time.

Maybe today your next step is not huge.

Maybe it looks like:

- praying again,
- trying again,

- showing up again,
- forgiving again,
- serving again,
- trusting again.

Small obedience still counts.

You do not have to know every detail of where God is leading.

You only need enough faith for the next step.

And remember this:

God is not grading your speed.

He is honoring your faithfulness.

Keep your hands on the plow.

Keep moving.

Keep believing.

The harvest is not behind you.

Reflection Questions:

1. What keeps pulling my attention backward?
2. Have I mistaken slow progress for no progress?
3. What is one faithful next step God may be asking me to take?

Prayer:

Father, help me stay focused on what You are calling me toward instead of what I have left behind. Give me endurance when progress feels slow and courage to keep moving when I cannot see the outcome. Strengthen my hands for the work You have placed before

me and help me trust that You are producing fruit even when I cannot yet see it. In Jesus Name We Pray, Amen.

Today's Challenge:

Choose one thing you have delayed because of fear, discouragement, or uncertainty.

Take one action today.

Send the email.

Make the call.

Start the project.

Say the prayer.

Then thank God for progress instead of perfection.

Tomorrow: What Really Counts