



Seven Reasons I Became a Minister

By James G. Poitras

So they went over to him and asked:

- Who brought you here?
- What are you doing in this place?
- What is keeping you here?” (Judges 18:3, *HCSB*).

It is often therapeutic, directive, and beneficial to pause to reflect for a moment concerning the why behind what we do. This lesson caused me to do just that.

There are at least seven reasons why I became a minister.

Because:

1. **I was qualified.** At first glance it appears the basic qualification of a potential minister is being unqualified (1 Corinthians 1:26; 2 Corinthians 12:10). I was FAT enough.
 - a. **F:** faithful; willing to obey (1 Samuel 15:22; 1 Corinthians 4:2). Faithfulness is an old word for “trustworthy” and is required in God’s ministers.
 - b. **A:** Available (Romans 12:1). I was a willing vessel (2 Corinthians 4:7; 1 Thessalonians 4:4). Our availability is a predictor and prerequisite of our usability.
 - c. **T:** Teachable. A young man recently, “If you had only one word of advice for young ministers, what would it be?” Simple: Be teachable. That is good advice for young, middle-aged, and even elderly ministers alike. We shouldn’t grow out of being teachable. I’m sure being “humble” is a factor or ingredient in being “teachable” (1 Samuel 15:17; Proverbs 15:33; 1 Peter 5:5).

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2. **I couldn't help it. It was something I had to do. I was addicted.**
 - a. Jesus felt that way (John 4:4; 9:4).
 - b. I detest people who use the word "must" in their writing. In editing I often soften it with words like "should" and "could." Ministry wasn't something I should do or could do but something I must do. Necessity is laid on me. I must preach (1 Corinthians 9:16). Like Jeremiah of old, there is no way I can hold His word within me (Jeremiah 20:9). It must be let out to a lost world.
 - c. I became addicted to preaching and teaching the Word (1 Corinthians 16:15).
 - i. Addiction is the state of being enslaved to something.
 - ii. It is an unusual great interest in something.

3. **I was indebted to One that gave all for me.** How could I withhold or do anything less than my best (1 Corinthians 1:14-16).

4. **I recognized I was a servant.** Not just to anything or anybody. I became a servant of this gospel (Acts 2:38 salvation message).
 - a. "I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working on his power" (Ephesians 3:7, *NIV*).

5. **I wanted to be on the winning team.** Everybody does. Remember those days when teams would be selected and every fiber of your being was silently calling out, "Pick me! Pick me!" and "Please don't pick me last." I hated being chosen last.
 - a. We get to be involved in the greatest enterprise on the face of the planet: reaching souls.
 - b. I was hand-picked. He saw not what I was but what I could be.
 - c. Like someone said, "I've looked at the back of the Book and I know who wins."
 - d. We not only envision but we can have an end-vision. The church will be triumphant. See Revelation 5:9; 7:9. People from everywhere will be there in heaven.
 - e. We all can be a winner. We have a race to run (it's specifically designed for us) and we can win.
 - f. Our confidence and trust is not in ourselves but in who He is (2 Corinthians 3:4-6).
 - g. I am insufficient but God is all-sufficient.
 - h. We are laborers together with God (1 Corinthians 3:9). We are on the winning team.

6. I have the message that changes the hearts of men and impacts the world.
- a. We have the message of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:19).
 - b. We have something to say: a message to proclaim.
 - c. We aren't like the runner in the Old Testament, who hastened to the king, but didn't even have a message.
 - d. We persuade men (2 Corinthians 5:11).
 - e. We have the keys to the kingdom (Matthew 16:18).
 - f. Like a student in the classroom, I have the answer.
 - g. Preach the Word (Titus 1:3; 2 Timothy 4:2; Romans 1:16)
 - h. Preachers of the gospel have some of the greatest job security in the world. As long as there are lost souls, there will be a market for preachers (Romans 10:13-15).
 - i. When He calls, He equips and empowers.

7. God chose me.

- a. My selection was based on His ability and my availability.
- b. He called me. Yep, He chose me. Recruited. Drafted.
- c. It is humbling to realize that out of over seven billion people on the planet He selected me.
 - i. He was thinking about me (Psalms 8:4).
 - ii. He gives us the desire of our heart(s) because He plants that desire there in the first place (Psalms 37:4).
 - iii. He enables us to reach our expected end (Jeremiah 29:11).

Commitments made in the past must be renewed in the present: daily. So, it moves from "I was" to "I am."

Remember, the seven times Jesus proclaimed "I am."

- Bread of Life (John 6:35)
- Light of the world (John 8:12)
- Gate (John 10:9)
- Good Shepherd (John 10:11)
- Resurrection and Life (John 11:25)
- Way, Truth, and Life (John 14:6)
- True Vine (John 15:1)

I have seven proclamations of things I am. These apply to any and every minister of the gospel

- I am qualified through being FAT.
- I am addicted to ministry
- I am a debtor
- I am a servant of this gospel
- I am on the winning team
- I am equipped with the message
- I am chosen by God