

I believe it is important we be prepared for these changes. When Pearl Harbor occurred--as I mentioned a minute ago, the Japanese could have come in and seized California. I don't know how much further they could have gotten. It would have taken them a long time to bring supplies ~~xxxxxx~~ from Japan, but we were quite open to them at that time. We had two big oceans on both sides. Nobody could get near us, without spending a long time on the way. We were able to get busy then and spend many months building up an Army. Building a new Navy, getting ready. Getting prepared. After all that preparation it took weeks and weeks before men could be trained sufficiently to be able to carry on a war.

By the end of the war the U.S. has a very well-trained military force. Perhaps the most effective and strongest military force that the world had ever seen. But we had plenty of time to prepare and train it, and to experiment along the way. Next time the oceans no longer exist. Missiles can cross them in an instant. Or a few minutes. There is not the barrier. It becomes necessary we consider things nationally, and I think more importantly it brings to our attention the fact that in our personal lives we need to be ready.

We will have all kinds of excitements that would cause us to turn aside from the direction the Lord wants us to go in. If you are capable you will find people making you offers. It's very tempting to leave the Lord's work for a while. Here's an opportunity. I could make a lot of money in a short while. Think how much I could do for missions. Think how much I could do to help Christian organizations. Think how much I could do to help other people who are doing the Lord's work. Wonderful if that's what the Lord calls you into. The Lord needs people like that.

But the Lord also says what he thinks of those who set their hands to the plow and then turn back. I believe the Lord has called each one whom the Lord sends here (perhaps not each one) but in most cases the Lord has definitely called you to devote your life to His service. He has called you to reach the people with the message of Christ. He has called you to reach the confused Christians you find everywhere. Knowing a little Christian truth, knowing the Lord as Saviour but not being able to get into Scripture for themselves and applying there the message that they need for their guidance and leading. The Lord wants each of us to be His emissaries for this purpose.

It's very interesting to get into some subject and study it if you're the student type. Personally I could read history from now till doomsday and enjoy its study. I just love to study almost any field and to get into it and go on and on in it. I just have to say, No, No, No. My purpose isn't to study. My purpose is to do what the Lord wants me to do. Other people have other things that attract and lead them away from God's purposes for them. We don't know whether God is going to give each of us many many years of service for Him. Or whether He'll give us only a few. The Lord might take anyone of us tonight. You don't know.