

**The Balancing Act**  
Vocation, Ministry, Family



## Luke 9:25 (NKJV)

- 25 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?

This Scripture is pertaining perhaps to a person's pursuit of riches or fame. His pursuit of such may lead to a loss of spiritual vitality or strength which could cost him or her his or her soul. Can a minister be guilty of this imbalance? Can one's family be nearly as important as one's soul?



This balancing act is one of the most difficult on earth. Juggling family life with ministry responsibilities and work responsibilities (if you are bi-vocational) is labyrinthian.

This balance is delicate at times, and requires much attention, compassion and detail to be able to keep the balls in the air and the plates spinning on the sticks.





# Answering the Call

The Prophet

## Luke 24:19–20 (NKJV)

- 19 And He said to them, “What things?”
- So they said to Him, “The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a **Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people**, 20 and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him.

God has placed a calling upon your life



## Being a Responsible Employee

The Priest

## Hebrews 3:1–2 (NKJV)

- 3:1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and *High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, 2 who was faithful* to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house.



# Leading a Home

The King

## John 18:33–38 (NKJV)

- 37 Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?”
- Jesus answered, “You say rightly that I am a king. **For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth.** Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”
- 38 Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?” And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, “I find no fault in Him at all.”

# Who Gets My Attention?

- Priorities
  - Dr. Curtis Grey preached a sermon years ago in which he continually rang out the following litany: “God first, others second, self last!”
  - God must always and forever be one’s ultimate priority. That does not mean church or even ministry, but God.
  - After that comes a war between family, ministry, and vocation.
  - Be sure that when the dust clears and the fray ends, that you have a solid relationship with God, a legacy left for your family, and a harvest that carries on your ministry for years to come.

If I may be very honest with you, this is difficult at best and nearly impossible at worst. At the very best, one must hope to see their marriage strong and their children and grandchildren saved and whole. Although I am considered by some to be “successful,” (although not compared to my esteemed colleagues here today) I am still working on all my children being saved. I am 2/3 in that category. I have begun to pour Jesus into my grandchildren, praying for all of them daily for salvation and wholeness. However, the work is not done. I cannot stop that work as long as I live. I have a strong relationship with my wife. She just had cancer surgery a few months ago. When she was fearful and uncertain, I had to be strong for her. We help one another. We bear one another’s burdens. We consider one another. I am a husband that consults my wife’s feelings and taps in to her common sense on issues. In the end, she trusts me and believes in me as her husband, the prophet, priest, and king of our home. I am the leader, but she is my partner, walking hand in hand through life. When the children are all married and no church will have me as their pastor, I will still be sitting across the living room from my beautiful wife. We will know one another and be together when the spotlight is dim.

# So, How?

- Intentionality
  - “Sacred Space” for personal devotions
  - Planned dates with your wife
  - Capture “Teachable Moments” with your Children
  - Intentional Attention to children’s big events
  - Spontaneous Family outings
  - Responsible ministry (to God, family, and mankind; accountability)