



**My First Half Century in the Ministry, Pt. 1  
50 Years & Counting  
By Louie Marsh, 3-2-2025**

*<sup>22</sup>Jesus answered, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?” They said to him, “We are able.”” (Matthew 20:22, ESV)*

**1) If you want to serve God, you will have your heart \_\_\_\_\_ over and over again.**

*<sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. <sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of revelers, nor did I rejoice; I sat alone, because your hand was upon me, for you had filled me with indignation. <sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will you be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail? (Jeremiah 15:16–18, ESV)*

*<sup>18</sup>The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.” (Psalm 34:18, ESV)*

**2) Self never \_\_\_\_\_, ego is \_\_\_\_\_ & the cost of serving Jesus is higher than you can possibly imagine.**

*<sup>13</sup>“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. <sup>14</sup>For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.” (Matthew 7:13–14, ESV)*

*<sup>23</sup>And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup>For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.” (Luke 9:23–24, ESV)*

- **The ups & downs of the ministry take their \_\_\_\_\_.**

*<sup>27</sup>in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. <sup>28</sup>And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me*

*of my anxiety for all the churches. <sup>29</sup>Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant? <sup>30</sup>If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.” (2 Corinthians 11:27–30, ESV)*

**3) God’s answer to this – \_\_\_\_\_.**

*<sup>9</sup>But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” (2 Corinthians 12:9, ESV)*

- **Jacob is the ultimate \_\_\_\_\_**

*. <sup>24</sup>And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. <sup>25</sup>When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup>Then he said, “Let me go, for the day has broken.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” <sup>27</sup>And he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” <sup>28</sup>Then he said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed.” <sup>29</sup>Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. <sup>30</sup>So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered.” <sup>31</sup>The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip. <sup>32</sup>Therefore to this day the people of Israel do not eat the sinew of the thigh that is on the hip socket, because he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip on the sinew of the thigh.” (Genesis 32:22–32, ESV)*

**3) To trust in Jesus I must \_\_\_\_\_ on the Scriptures.**

*<sup>39</sup>You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, <sup>40</sup>yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.” (John 5:39–40, ESV)*



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