

Mission Momentum—Mark 1:35-39

WWT Board of Directors Devotion

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Our mission at World Wide Technology is to be a profitable, growth company that is also a great place to work! Can I get an AMEN? Holding these three elements: profit, growth, and culture in healthy tension requires focused leadership and continual decision clarity. In our devotion today, titled Mission Momentum, we will look at a specific example of how Jesus demonstrated staying on mission by continuing to press forward in the midst of many competing demands. For Jesus this meant moving forward, even when staying where He was and continuing to do what He was doing had the appearance of success.

Our reading comes from Mark 1:35-39 (NIV): *Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon [Peter] and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.*

In the preceding verses 29-34, Mark sets the scene for us to understand the significance of this moment by telling us that Jesus had healed many people the day before, including Simon Peter's mother-in-law. In fact, by that evening, it seemed the whole town of Capernaum was gathered at the doorway of Peter's house to be healed and to witness these miraculous healings. (If you thought the line of people at the St. Louis Blues' opener was long, you should have seen this one!)

Therefore, it only makes sense for the town's people to return first thing the next morning for more of the same healing miracles...right? Likewise, who could argue with Jesus remaining there, in Capernaum, healing all the sick folks in that town before moving on? Well, that is the thing about a mission; it requires movement. Movement comes from deciding what to do next, and then executing it to maintain momentum. If our decisions don't move us forward, on mission, then we run the risk of mission drift or deceleration. The appearance of success can distract us from advancing the mission, like Jesus remaining in Capernaum another day, causing us to lose future mission momentum.

Perhaps the most challenging issues we face as leaders is determining what are the next steps in pursuit of our mission. Let's briefly review the three elements of mission momentum that Jesus modeled for us:

1. **Pause:** Yes, this is counterintuitive when we are talking about momentum, but Jesus strategically pauses. He removes Himself from the urgent and immediate demands, by going to a quiet or solitary place. The Bible is replete with examples of Jesus pausing in prayer.
2. **Plan:** While we are not told the specifics of Jesus prayer, we are told that Jesus presented a clear plan to His disciples following His prayer. By pausing in prayer, He was able to clearly plan the next steps.
3. **Execute:** Jesus calls the play. No doubt that His team was a little perplexed. They probably had friends and family members waiting on them back at Peter's house. Nevertheless, when they broke the huddle, they moved forward together to execute the plan and kept the momentum going!

Let us pray: Heavenly Father, today's board meeting is clearly a strategic pause for our management team and board members. There are many competing demands for our time; there always will be! But as Jesus demonstrated, pausing and praying leads to clarity. Lord, please give us that clarity throughout our board meeting, as we are planning for the next steps. Ultimately, Lord, as decisions are made and plans communicated, please enable us and our fellow WWT team members to take the next steps and execute these plans in ways that maintain our mission momentum and bless the world. In Jesus name, we pray. AMEN