

Podcast Episode Notes
Season 4 Episode 3 The Ministry of Availability

The cost of discipleship is more than just about saying “yes,” but also what we’re saying “no” to. The ministry of availability is a commitment of discipleship that promises access to your life within healthy boundaries. Are you available to those you want to influence and teach?

Availability

How are we to spend our availability? Not something we often think about as a resource that we have to spend.

Jesus and his 12 disciples – He taught the multitudes and invested deeply in 12 = God’s Kingdom still here and advancing!

Dawson Trotman, Founder of the Navigators, the longest running disciple making organization that I know: *“More time with less people equals greater Kingdom impact”*.

“Available to do the things that God invites me to partner with Him in.”

Enemies of availability may include: not seeking God first; not making decisions based on God’s value system; not recognizing the season of life you are in. We end up worn down, done in and upset.

1) Availability begins with our availability to God

- What is He asking of us? Our prayer retreats.
- Clarifies our yes’s and no’s
- Determines where we do and don’t spend our time. Healthy boundaries.
- Not every need is ours to meet

We will find God’s favor on our lives when our availability aligns with our obedience to God.

2) Availability is linked to our values

- What we value we give the best of our time, effort and resources.
- Reinforces where our focus points need to be.
- If not, we are perpetually worn out.
- Are your decisions more value based or emotions driven?
- Is what you value what God values?

3) Availability is linked to understanding your season of life

- When my kids were young and living in my home – I chose differently as that season of life only come through once.
- Our current tending of aging parents. Cheryl as Nana, less painting, more time w/grandkids.
- Me: I’ve said no to some Board roles and speaking opportunities to say yes to some family priorities, some big things we are doing with Lionshare, and coming alongside our church.
- What is God asking of me in this season of my life?
- Understanding your life’s season makes it clearer and easier to say yes’s and no’s.

You cannot say yes to everything and be focused on the really important things Jesus has asked you to do!

Where do you need to say no? Today? This week? This year?

Where do you need to say yes? Today? This week? This year?

Scripture References

1 John 3:16 – “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.”

John 15:13 – “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

Get a copy of Dave Buehring’s book “A Discipleship Journey: A Proven and Practical Tool for Making Disciples of Jesus” at [Lionshare.org/store](https://lionshare.org/store). You can also access Dave’s Devotionals, a 2-minute video devotion available every day, by downloading the Lionshare Leadership Group at Apple App Store or at Google Play.