



## The Norm Series

## Part 4 - Tony Ferraro "Activate Your Impact"

Small Group Material

April 2nd, 2017

Leader Guide

**Bottom Line:** *Ministry is when your life intersects with someone else's needs and God moves through you.*

**Study Verses:** *Mark 10:17-27, Matthew 22:36-40, James 4:13-17*

**Define The Win:** *Participants would understand the importance of the story they are telling with their life. They would recognize that their ministry isn't about what they do, but about the person they are becoming. Group members would assess the current connection level with Christ and how this connection is influencing their relationship with others.*

### Key Points

- *Your life is your story so tell a good one.*
- *We all want our life to matter and make our mark on the world.*
- *You can't impact anyone's life if you don't have a relationship with them.*
- *Loving God is worship. Loving others is ministry.*
- *God doesn't need you to be something you are not.*
- *Your ministry isn't about what you DO but who you ARE.*
- *The most important moment in your life is the one you are living in right now.*

- *Focus on building God's kingdom instead of propping up your own empire.*
- *Great stories are told through faith, obedience and sacrifice.*
- *Your ministry flows from your walk with God.*
- *It's all about the dash. What will you do with the time you've been given?*

### **ENCOUNTER**

- **Surveys show that 85% of people struggle with their calling. Why do you believe most of us experience this tension?**
- **When you hear the words "calling" or "purpose" does your mind tend to gravitate towards what you DO or who you ARE?**
- **How have you wrestled with understanding your life's purpose? Over the years have you gained more or less clarity over your calling?**

### **FORMATION**

- **Read Mark 10:17-27. Where was the rich young ruler's security found - in what he did or who he was? How did Jesus speak to what was happening inside the rich young ruler's heart? What was the ruler unwilling to sacrifice in order to follow Jesus?**
- **Read Matthew 22:36-40. How does our ministry and the impact we have on others flow from our walk with God? Why do all the other commandments hang on our willingness to obey the command to love God and love others?**
- **Read James 4:13-17. How does this passage speak to the importance of being present in every moment? In what ways is procrastination sin?**

### **EXPRESSION**

- **Complete the sentence: The story I am telling with my life is \_\_\_\_\_. What makes you answer in the way that you do?**
- **The most important moment in your life is the one you are living in. What situations are you currently facing that you need to remind yourself to be present for? How is God crafting your story by what you are dealing with right now?**
- **Your ministry flows from your walk with God. If this is the case, how would you describe the current state of your heart and connection level?**
- **How can you begin to activate your impact?**

**LEADER INGIHT:** *What is God's will for my life? No other question has the power to shut someone down quicker than this one. Trying to figure out God's prompting can be unnerving. We don't want to make a mistake or go down the wrong path. We wonder if we are just making things up in our head or if we hear the Holy Spirit nudging us in a direction.*

*We treat our life's calling as this mysterious, almost unsolvable, code that we are attempting to crack. In some twisted version of Let's Make A Deal we are hoping to choose the right door that leads us to clarity, significance and impact. The pressure to find our life's purpose leaves many of us paralyzed. Because we don't know what we should do, we don't do anything. We squander our days away. We waste the moments we've been given. Stories of God's faithfulness remain untold.*

*So, how does one figure out what is next without letting the 'oughts' and 'ifs' to cause them to remain idle? It begins by understanding God is far less concerned with WHAT we do and more focused on WHY we do it. Our ministry isn't about what we DO but who we ARE. The specifics of our activity pale in comparison to our authenticity, availability and accessibility. It is true that God desires to use us in unique and different ways. This statement shouldn't create more pressure, but lessen the burden to have everything figured out.*

*As believers, we have the same calling: to share Christ's love with those around us and to make His name known. When Jesus was asked about the greatest command, Jesus didn't hesitate. He said the entire law hangs on two commandments: love God with all your heart, mind and soul, and love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:34-40).*

*Ministry is when our life intersects with someone else's needs and God moves through us. Influencing someone doesn't take place from afar. It requires a personal investment and being present in every moment. We can't impact anyone's life if we don't have a relationship with them.*

*God's will always involves impacting others. Loving God is worship. Loving others is ministry. He is calling us to be a people of action based on the relationship He has with us. We can't become so hung up on trying to find God's purpose for us that we miss what is going on right in front of us.*

*What God wants from us is to be continually on mission and stop being so concerned about the future and the details. He is leading each one of us to start doing something with the here and now. The most powerful tool God has given us for His mission is our story. Our story exists to make disciples. Great stories are told through faith, obedience and sacrifice.*

*Our mission starts in our surroundings. Right where we are. Right now. The most important moment in our life is the one we are living right now. Our next step is right in front of us. Do we have the courage to take it? What are we going to do*

*with our dash? What will we do with the time we've been given? We must drop our pen and allow God to be the author of the tale He is telling. We can't wait. Time is precious. WE only get one dash.*

*Coming to grips with the brevity of life should cause two different reactions to erupt within us: reflection and action. How are we going to seize the day that we've been given? How can we encourage someone today? What conversations have we been putting off that need to take place? How will we reflect the love of Christ to others today? It is important that we steward our dash well. How? By making every day count, cherishing every moment and leveraging the time we've been given.*