

fail to get one time, you can take advantage of it at another time. I've known many a person that along in life has looked back at the ideas he had as a young person and has seen how he let the opportunities slip, or how he let personal advantage or personal objectives of different kinds lead him away from the Lord's work, and how he has regretted it. He can't go back and make up for the years that are gone. There's many an opportunity that is lost. It's sad to me when every now and then I run on to someone who has been filled with zeal for the Lord and has received his training, and gone out perhaps and done effective work in a church for a few yrs., and then the different things mount up, the financial difficulties come or some problem in the ch. and he finds that he can work in a school or he can work for a public assistance board, or in mental health or in something like that and I suppose in nearly every case he says, Well when I'm doing that I'm will be serving the Lord along with it. I'll be serving Him just as much as in the church. But in most cases they are not. In most cases other ideas become substitutes -- substituted for/making your life count to make Christ known. Have you the conviction the ideal of that will last and that will not lead you to such lost opportunities as that which the Israelites faced, when the Lord told them to go and fear struck them. Fear and misery. And they failed to step forward.

Some people have an idea that if you miss an opportunity, if you turn aside you have to come back to the point at which you deviated. Well I think there is something to that, but I think it can very often be very greatly misunderstood. I think it is very easy to have a complete error in connection with that idea. I knew a man who graduated from seminary. He already had a good vocation when he entered school and he worked at that vocation some of the time while he was in school. After he graduated he received a call to come as a candidate at a church quite a distance away. As he was going he began to get frightened. He began to get very much afraid of meeting the people. He got half-way there and was taken with an illness caused by nervousness and turned around and went back. And he went on in his vocation and earned his money ~~and~~ other ways, and he came to see me a few yrs. later. He was so upset at what he had missed, and how he felt the Lord had called him into his work. And I said, it is not too late yet. You have the training.