



What is Mine to Do?



Week 6: No-thing



Why is this important?

Sometimes, you just have to stop. Stop doing all the good you can (whatever the famous quote attributed to John Wesley might say) and think about whether it is yours to do.

That's the principle of locally-led development: there are things that Western charities, with good intentions, have been doing in low-income countries for decades which have been doing as much harm as good. Stopping doing some of those things and allowing local communities to take the lead has magnified the impact of All We Can's partnerships. Sometimes less really is more.

Just because it needs doing, does not mean it is yours to do. Discernment is key. That's what this journey of discernment through Lent is all about.



Is this mine to do?

Perhaps, this Lent, you need to hear the invitation to stop.

Rest. Put down the pen. Close the laptop. Step away from the desk. Make a cup of tea and, for once, just do nothing. In the stillness, perhaps you can hear the still, small voice of calm?



What could you stop doing?

What are you currently doing that might actually be someone else's calling?



Can you let go?



Joe Myers teaches tailoring to SHFSD's students in Monrovia, Liberia. But your calling might be to stop!

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Cynthia outside SHIFSD's headquarters. Her life has been transformed through listening as much as doing.

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Jeremiah Burgess, Director of SHIFSD, studies his bible.

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How do I do it?

You don't. You don't do it. That's the trick.

Practice rhythms of pause and stillness. Practice saying no. Work out how to enable other people to step into roles or tasks that you have held ever-so-tightly, perhaps for years.

Maybe write down a list of all the commitments you currently undertake. Can you identify one that you might be able to lay down?

It is not going to be easy, but it might just be what Jesus is asking you to do. Lay down your nets, and follow him.



Who does this help?

The first Lenten postcard introduced us to Jeremiah Burgess, from All We Can's partner in Liberia, SHIFSD. For our final postcard, we return to Jeremiah for some wisdom.

SHIFSD is a literacy and vocational training organisation, reaching an area with a huge amount of need and where there is lots of work to do. But, in this context, Jeremiah still understands the importance of doing nothing, of getting out of the way, of enabling others. After all, it is the *Self-Help* Initiative for Sustainable Development.

He says, 'For me, it's all about how we listen.' It is the quality of this listening that enables the community members SHIFSD are working with to feel empowered to transform their own lives, to engage with the training on offer, to release their own potential. Because Jeremiah is not being afraid of doing nothing, change is beginning to happen.



allwecan.org.uk

info@allwecan.org.uk

020 7467 5132

[allwecanuk](https://www.instagram.com/allwecanuk)

All We Can is the operating name of The Methodist Relief and Development Fund, a charity registered in England and Wales, number 291691