

HOW TO LIVE THE REST OF YOUR LIFE

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John 13:1, 14:1, 17:1-5

1. Over the next several months we are going to look at what is referred to as The Upper Room Discourse (John 13-16); what Jesus had to say to the Apostles just prior to His appointment with the Cross of Calvary.

NOTE: Since this message is the introductory message to this series I am preaching it again even though I used it in a slightly different form in early 2016.

2. In my devotional reading some years ago I was struck by the bluntness of these words found in 2 Kings 13:14, 20.

“When Elisha became sick with the illness of which he was to die...Elisha died, and they buried him.”

3. Elisha was a great prophet and man of God, but the day came when his time on this earth was up.

4. Although we are well into 2017 there is one thing that we all share, and that is to date all of us have had exactly the same amount of time allotted to us, and going forward the same will be true for as long as we live.

5. However, when you look at our individual lives there are some differences related to time.

- a. We differ in how long we have lived.
- b. We differ in how long we have to live.
- c. We differ in how we use our time.
- d. We will differ in how our lives end.

6. What we have done with our time up to this point is water over the dam as some put it.

NOTE: Our past use of our time has a lot to do with who we are at this moment, but we cannot go back and change anything, good or bad. However we can confess past misuses of our time, receive forgiveness, and move on.

7. I'm concerned about the time we have left.

8. What we refer to as the Upper Room Discourse was a momentous moment for Jesus as He was soon to be arrested and crucified, but it was also a momentous moment for His followers because from this point on everything was going to change.

9. I believe that what Jesus taught here was not only critical for the Apostles, but what He taught here can also go a long way in helping us know how to live the rest of our lives so that they really matter.

10. This morning we are going to look at three foundational principles that should undergird our lives.

I. Know why you are here. 13:1

A. Jesus did.

B. As a twelve year old boy Jesus said to His parents, “Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father’s house (affairs, the things of My Father)?” Luke 2:49

C. As He reached out to Zaccheus, the despised Jewish tax-collector, Jesus declared:
Luke 19:9-10

"Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. **For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.**"

D. While confronting James and John's desire to sit on His right and left in His kingdom Jesus responded as follows. Matt 20:24-28

24 And hearing this, the ten became indignant with the two brothers. 25 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. 26 **"It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, 27 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."**

E. Like Jesus, you and I cannot fully fulfill God's purposes until we die to self and to this world.

F. After speaking about His own rejection, suffering and death Jesus stated, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. Luke 9:23-24

II. Believe in God. 14:1

A. Jesus told and would tell His followers things that were deeply disturbing.

B. He knew that their preconceived ideas about the Messiah and the Messianic Kingdom were about to be crushed.

C. They were about to witness His arrest, suffering and crucifixion.

D. You can almost see Jesus looking at each of the Apostles with genuine love and affection when He said, "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me."

E. There is a great book, written by Jerry Bridges, titled, "Trusting God Even When Life Hurts."

F. The author's overall premise is that God is all-powerful, all-wise, and all-loving and that none of those attributes are manifested independently of the other two.

G. If we understand and believe those three great truths we can face life and whatever comes with the calm assurance that God is in control, He knows what He is doing, and His love for us absolute.

H. Remember, "For whatever (whoever) is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" 1 John 5:4-5

III. Glorify God. 17:1-5

A. Jesus prayed, "Father, the hour has come, glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You...I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do."

B. God saved you and me for a reason that transcends our particular circumstances in this present life. Eph 2:8-10

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 **For we are**

His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

C. Like Jesus, God has a predetermined plan and purpose for our lives that will put us at odds with most of the people we have to relate to. John 15:18-22

"If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. 19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. 20 "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. 21 "But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me."

D. We are to live our lives for God's glory. 1 Cor 10:31

"Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

NOTE: In Ephesians 1:3-14 Paul repeatedly used the phrase, "to the praise of His glory."

E. Jesus said, "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and **glorify your Father who is in heaven.**" Matthew 5:16

NOTE: God should be the only explanation for the lives that we live. We are wasting our time talking about God's relevance and power if His relevance and power are not being manifested in our lives.

APPLICATION

1. I would encourage you to become very familiar with these four chapters.
2. Read and reread them while meditating on the fact that these words were spoken by Jesus to those who would be used of God to change the world as they knew it.
3. Pray, in Jesus' name, that God would enable you to fulfill His purpose for your life.
4. Believe in God's love for you, and believe God's ability to manifest the life of Jesus Christ in you.
5. Live to glorify God and leave all other matters to Him.