

It's a Wonderful Life - Week 4 - Dec. 28, 2022

75-yr old movie. Still relevant. So is the Bible.

Life Lessons from It's A Wonderful Life:

- 1 – Good things still happen when our plans don't work out.
 - George doesn't take the trip he planned - but he experienced a wonderful journey!
 - George wanted to build things - he built a life.
 - For many, "change in plans" isn't a good thing...stressful, hassle, etc.
 - **Prov. 19:1** – "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."
- 2 – Prayer opens the movie.
 - a. Prayer opens doors; we should pray for each other.
 - i. **James 5:16** – "pray for each other so that you may be healed"
 - b. Prayer sometimes changes circumstances, changed George.
 - c. Billy Graham – "Before prayer changes others, it first changes us"
 - i. Remember: God transforms us by the renewing of our minds.
 - ii. **Rom. 12:2** – "Don't be like the people of this world, but let God change the way you think. Then you will know how to do everything that is good and pleasing to him."
- 3 - We're all important; we make a difference. George missed it.
 - a. "Each man's life touches so many other lives."
 - b. We leave our mark. We leave an "awful hole" when not around.
 - c. We're called to be the salt of the earth. Difference makers.
 - d. **Mark 9:50** – "Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavor, how do you make it salty again? You must have the qualities of salt among yourselves and live in peace with each other."
- 4 George was a giver, sacrificial giving. Didn't hesitate.
 - a. Giving comes back to us.
 - b. **Luke 6:38** – "Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."
 - c. Karolyn Grimes played Zuzu – giving is healing.

- d. "God loves a cheerful giver" - **2 Cor. 9:7.**
 - e. **2 Corinthians 9:10** – "He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing..."
 - f. **Proverbs 19:17** – "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed."
- 5 - We all need help, just as we want to help.
- a. God often meets our needs thru people.
 - b. Winnie the Pooh – Piglet asked the bravest thing ever said: help.
 - c. 3 reasons we should ask for help:
 - i. God's design: to help each other. Eve created as "helpmate"
 - ii. Scripture says: "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" **Galatians 6:2.**
 - 1. Helping/bearing... shares "law of Christ" – love.
 - 2. Asking - gives others chance to serve God, share love.
 - 3. **Prov. 3:27** – "Do not withhold good from those who need it, when you have the ability to help."
 - iii. Asking for help acknowledges Truth: our need & God's grace.
 - 1. Asking for help doesn't equate to failure; fact is: we do fail, and we are weak. We are needy. Painful to admit?
 - 2. God never shames us for admitting this truth. God's desire in Scripture is that we would cry out to him and turn to him. He invites us to find our sufficiency in him.
 - 3. Sometimes gently, sometimes forcefully, God reveals to us that we are not able to meet our own needs AND He desires to fill us with his own abundant provision.
 - 4. "I won't admit my weakness, won't ask for help," sounds closer to rebellion than it does to submission.
- 6 – Don't judge how rich your life is by the \$ in wallet, 401k.
- a. Jesus became poor so we could become rich. **2 Cor. 8:9**
 - b. Rich in Christ. Rich in grace, mercy, & love.
 - c. We're rich in spiritual blessings.
 - d. Clarence: "No man is a failure who has friends"
- 7 – God wants to give us a Wonderful Life!
- a. It's not the absence of problems... it's seeing God work in them!

Stay positive. Test negative. Vaccinated.

Song of the week: BRIGHTER DAYS – Blessing Offor