Key Text: I JOHN 2:15-16

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WHAT DO YOU VALUE MOST IN LIFE?

INTRODUCTION

What do you value most in life?

What would you be willing to sacrifice everything for?

God has a plan and purpose for every person but for Him to use us to His fullest desire, each of us must prioritize what matter most. We need to clarify our values, decide on what is important and then bring them into agreement with our actions.

WHY?

Because:

Our values affect our stress levels.

Our values control our <u>success in</u> <u>life</u>.

Our values effect our **salvation**. "What does it profit a man if he gains the world..." Mark 8:36

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

There are four things that you need to do:

1) Clarify what's important.

2) Choose your source.

3) **Change** your lifestyle.

4) **Check** yourself daily.

1. CLARIFY WHAT IS IMPORTANT

Why?

- A. Most of the values that you have you **didn't choose**. As a man thinketh in his heart, so is He (Prov. 23:7)
- B. Don't wait until we have a crisis.
- C. It will lead you to do something about it.
- D. It will determine if you feel you are **successfu**l or not.

1. CLARIFY WHAT IS IMPORTANT

What is important will determine if you feel successful or not.

Success is the feeling I get when I live out my values. It is not a destination. It's not a goal, or an achievement. It's a journey, a progression.

Real success is when you decide what values are really important to you in life and you bring your life into alignment with them.

1. CLARIFY WHAT IS IMPORTANT

If you are not sure, ask this question, "What is going to last?" What's going to last 10 or 20 years from now? The things that don't matter, maybe I shouldn't spend much time on them.

HEBREWS 11:25 says Moses refused to be called Pharaoh's son but aligned himself with the people of God rather than enjoy the passing pleasure of sin.

2. CHOOSE YOUR SOURCE

Where are you going to get your values from? Parents, peers, books, music, TV.

The source of your values will determine the quality of your values.

Ex: 35 hours of TV per week.

1 John 2:15-16 (Message) "Don't love the world's ways – wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important – has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from Him."

2. CHOOSE YOUR SOURCE

- The world has three basic values.

 1) Pleasure: The lust of the flesh—
- having fun; being happy.
- 2) **Possessions**: The lust of the eyes—buy things we don't need, with money we don't have to impress people we don't know or like!
- 3) **Prestige**: The pride of life. Power, position or popularity.

3. CHANGE MY LIFESTYLE

Three main areas: Time, money, & relationship

PSALM 119:37 "Turn my eyes away from worthless things."

"Stop going along with the mindless crowd. That's no life for you. **Get rid**of it. Then take on an entirely new way of life, a God fashioned life, renewed from the inside and working

3. CHANGE MY LIFESTYLE

God gives you the power to do what He wants you to do. You can't do this on your own.

Phil. 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ..."

He gives the strength and power to choose the source, clarify what's important and then to begin changing your lifestyle.

The tragedy is most of us never get serious about changes in our lives until it's too late.

4. CHECK MY VALUES DAILY

PROVERBS 4:23 "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life."

It means you do the things that are true and right, the things that are of value and worth.

Take time to write down what you value most and then put some Bible verses with it. Ask daily: "Is my life in harmony with what I say is important? Is my time? Are my finances? Are my relationships in harmony with what I really believe God wanted me to do with my life?"

4. CHECK MY VALUES DAILY

1 TIMOTHY 4:16 "Keep a close watch on all you do and think. Stay true to what is right and God will bless you and use you to help others."

You don't know what the future holds but God has given you a compass. It is the values that are in this book, His word. Situations and technology may change but what you value most should be durable or eternal.

4. CHECK MY VALUES DAILY

Don't waste your life! When you get to heaven and the Lord asks: What did you do with the life I gave you, what will you say? Hence,

- 1) Clarify what's important.
- 2) Choose your source.
- 3) **Change** your lifestyle.
- 4) **Check** yourself daily.

REMINDER:

In order to be successful, we must be people of value. Success is the feeling you get when you live out your values. Real success is when you decide what values are really important to you and then bring your life into alignment with them.

In order to do that, we must:

- 1) **Clarify** what values are important.
- 2) **Choose** the source of our values.
- 3) **Change** our lifestyle to match our values.
- 4) Check ourselves continuously.

REMINDER:

- 1) Our values affect our stress levels.
- 2) Our values control our **success in life**.
- 3) Our values effect our <u>salvation</u>. "What shall it profit a man if he gains..." Mark 8:36.

In order to live out our values in 2024, there are five keys (things) to consider.

Let us use the acronym: R. E. A. C. T. Remember, Evaluate, Accept, Change, Trust.

Or simply put: **DO SOMETHING!**

- 1) From whence you came and where you are going (Luke 18:18-23).
- 2) His **goodness**. Ps 103: 2-4 says, "Bless the Lord, O my soul; And forget not all His benefits. Who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases...."
- 3) **Who** brought you here and **why**. Deut 6:12
- 4) This earth and everything <u>will pass</u> <u>away</u> "Love not the world..." (I John 2:14-15)

POINT I: REMEMBER (DEUT. 6:10-12)

- •Illus. I: A <u>turtle</u> sitting on a fence.
- Illus. II: In 1914, <u>Thomas Edison's</u> laboratory burned down with all his equipment and much of his life's work. He remarked: "There is great value in disaster--All of our mistakes are burned up. Thank God we can start anew."
- In Christ, I see and experience new mercies each day.

POINT II: EVALUATE

- 1) **Priorities**: Relationship, money, and time.
- 2) **Accomplishments** with lasting consequence?
- 3) **Legacy** and future **plans**. Heb. 12:1, "Lay aside every weight that so easily entangles you..."
- 4) What cost are you willing to pay? There is no gain without pain. There is no glory without a cost. There is a price one must pay to acquire and a price to maintain. Jesus died; the disciples fasted and then the Holy Spirit came.

POINT III: ACCEPT

- 1) Full **responsibility** and stop blaming others.
- 2) We are who we are, by the choices that we have made. Life is all about choices.
- 3) Do not be <u>anxious</u>...., by prayer and petition with thanksgiving make your request known..." <u>Phil. 4:6,7</u>
- Jer. 29:11, "I know the plans..." Jesus didn't try to change the political landscape.
- 4) God has given you the ability to

POINT III: ACCEPT

The Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity to **accept** the things I cannot **change**;

courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.

--Reinhold Niebuhr

POINT IV: CHANGE

- 1) Good intentions are not enough; Do it! Only babies like change!
- 2) Make a **commitment to change**:
- a) Make changes (if needed) in: a) The use of your time; b) Your relationship; c) Money.
- 3) **Three** things about God that haven't changed:
- a) The way He feels about you (He loves you);
- b) The way He feels about sin (He hates sin);
- c) His plan of salvation (it's by grace thru faith).

POINT V: TRUST

- 1) "In the Lord with all of your heart..." (Prov. 3:5)
- 2) Abiding in Him (studying the Word, praying and obeying) demonstrate that our trust is in Him.
- 3) God is leading you and that's what matters.
- Ex: a)Story of Esther----lives in danger;b) Noah----was mocked for obeying God;c) Abraham----left his country and willing

to sacrifice his son).

- 1) Decide today on the things you must lay aside (abandon) in order to serve Him better;
- 2) Improve on <u>current things</u>: better husband; man/woman; employee; good steward.
- 3) Accept responsibility for who you are, and who you are going to be in Christ.
- 4) **R.E.A.C.T**: remember, evaluate, accept, change, and trust.