

MAKING MY LIFE COUNT

Pastor Rick Reager – July 11, 2021

I. HOW DO MANY SEEK TO MAKE THEIR LIVES COUNT?

1. BY _____

“¹⁰ Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness! ¹¹ The more you have, the more people come to help you spend it. So what good is wealth—except perhaps to watch it slip through your fingers!” Ecclesiastes 5:10-11

2. BY _____

“¹ I said to myself, ‘Come on, let’s try pleasure. Let’s look for the ‘good things’ in life.’” But I found that this, too, was meaningless.” Ecclesiastes 2:1

3. BY _____

“⁴ I also tried to find meaning by building huge homes for myself and by planting beautiful vineyards. ⁵ I made gardens and parks, filling them with all kinds of fruit trees. ⁶ I built reservoirs to collect the water to irrigate my many flourishing groves. ⁷ I bought slaves, both men and women, and others were born into my household. I also owned large herds and flocks, more than any of the kings who had lived in Jerusalem before me. ⁸ I collected great sums of silver and gold, the treasure of many kings and provinces. I hired wonderful singers, both men and women, and had many beautiful concubines. I had everything a man could desire! ⁹ So I became greater than all who had lived in Jerusalem before me, and my wisdom never failed me. ¹⁰ Anything I wanted, I would take. I denied myself no pleasure. I even found great pleasure in hard work, a reward for all my labors. ¹¹ But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless—like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere.” Ecclesiastes 2:4-11

4. BY CHASING AFTER _____

“²¹ Some people work wisely with knowledge and skill, then must leave the fruit of their efforts to someone who hasn’t worked for it. This, too, is meaningless, a great tragedy. ²² So what do people get in this life for all their hard work and anxiety? ²³ Their days of labor are filled with pain and grief; even at night their minds cannot rest. It is all meaningless.” Ecclesiastes 2:21-23

5. BY PURSUING _____

“⁹ Young people, it’s wonderful to be young! Enjoy every minute of it. Do everything you want to do; take it all in. But remember that you must give an account to God for everything you do.” Ecclesiastes 11:9

6. BY RAISING A _____

“³ A man might have a hundred children and live to be very old. But if he finds no satisfaction in life and doesn’t even get a decent burial, it would have been better for him to be born dead.” Ecclesiastes 6:3

“⁶ Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.” Proverbs 22:6

7. BY SUPPORTING _____

“Your life is like the morning fog—it’s here a little while, then it’s gone.” James 4:14

“³⁶ And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? ³⁷ Is anything worth more than your soul?” Mark 8:36-37

II. HOW CAN I MAKE MY LIFE TRULY COUNT?

“³⁵ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. ³⁶ And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?^[e] ³⁷ Is anything worth more than your soul?” Mark 8:35-36

“¹⁰ The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.” John 10:10

1. LOVE GOD WITH _____ & LIVE TO _____

“²⁷ ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” Luke 10:27

“¹³ Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone’s duty. ¹⁴ God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad.” Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

2. FOCUS MY LIFE ON _____

“¹⁹ Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.” Matthew 6:19-21

KEY: I STORE UP TREASURES, BY INVESTING TIME/RESOURCES IN _____

“¹⁶ “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

HOW TO INVEST IN PRODUCING LASTING FRUIT:

i. _____ WITH ALL MY AVAILABLE RESOURCES

“⁴ Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, ⁵ so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. ⁶ In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. ⁷ If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. ⁸ If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.” Romans 12:4-8

HOW?

1. DISCOVER MY _____

“¹⁰ God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God’s generosity can flow through you.” 1 Peter 4:10

2. LOOK FOR & PRAY OVER _____

“¹⁰ For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do.” Hebrews 6:10

3. _____ USING _____

“¹¹ Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.” Ephesians 4:11-12

ii. LIVE OUT MY CALLING TO _____

“¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

“¹⁴ But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? ¹⁵ And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!” Romans 10:14-15

HOW?

1. _____ MY CALLING

“⁵But those who obey God’s word really do love him. That is the way to know whether or not we live in him. ⁶Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Christ did.” John 2:5-6

“²⁴ But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.” Acts 20:24

2. _____ & START _____

“¹⁵ So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. ¹⁶ Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. ¹⁷ Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. “ Ephesians 5:15-17

“⁵ If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. “ James 1:5

“If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail.” Benjamin Franklin

3. GET PLENTY OF _____

“⁷ Take time and trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit. ⁸ Bodily fitness has limited value, but spiritual fitness is of unlimited value, for it holds promise both for this present life and for the life to come.” 1 Timothy 4:7-8

“¹⁵ If someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. ¹⁶ But do this in a gentle and respectful way” 1 Peter 3:15-16

4. TRUST THAT WITH MY OBEDIENCE, _____

“⁵ “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing... ⁸ When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.” John 15:5 & 8

“¹² “The truth is, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. ¹³ You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, because the work of the Son brings glory to the Father. ¹⁴ Yes, ask anything in my name, and I will do it!” John 14:12

5. REVIEW _____ & REVISIT _____ REGULARLY

“⁵ ...Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit.” John 15:5

“²⁵ Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.” Galatians 5:25