

Live Life as if You are Leaving

“Life is complicated.” That’s what the world would like us to believe. We live our lives in a blur and we think the world is leaving us behind. No situation is what it seems and nothing is clear.

That is not what God tells us. He sent his son Jesus to change all that. Jesus removed the need for constant animal sacrifices. Jesus made the laws and commandments simple by summing them up into two. “. . .love the Lord with all your heart, mind, and strength. . . .love your neighbor as yourself.”(Matt. 22:37-39) Jesus came to simplify what we made complicated. He showed us that the importance was not in the letter of the law, but in its’ meaning.

Since that time, when He died on the cross, what have we done with His gift of simplicity? We have made it complicated. We have split ourselves into denominations who think that everyone else is wrong. We get so caught up in how we worship and then forget why we worship. We get so involved in attracting people to our churches that we forget to tell them why we are there. We try to teach so much of the complicated and deep things in sermons and in Sunday school that we do not learn or teach the basics of our faith.

Jesus was born. He was both God and Man. He lived a perfect life. He taught the Father’s will for us. He died on the cross to take away the sin we could never be good enough to remove. He was raised from the dead by God to show us that death was conquered and we can have eternal life. He left us with one decision we have to make in life. We can accept him as our Lord and Savior and lead a simpler life and spend eternity

in Heaven. We can also reject him or not make the decision. This leads to a hectic life and spending eternity in Hell.

It may sound basic, it may sound foolish, and it may sound like a harsh lie but it is real and it is simple. Jesus came to make our life simple. If we accept him as our Savior and Lord all we have to do in life is let Him be in control. That is the way it was in the beginning and it should be that way now for all Christians.

I am not saying life will be easy all fun and games. I am just saying we do not have to rely on our own vision and will to get us through life. Put Jesus in charge, He knows what is best and what will work.

Take lessons from anyone who has a terminal illness. They live life as if they are leaving tomorrow. They do not get mad as easily because those things that enrage you and me are petty compared to the end of life. They treat each moment with a person as if it is there last. They want to share love with people because they do not want to be remembered in anger, frustration, or guilt. This also is how the Apostle Paul lived.

They have a clarity in how they view life and people. That is the clarity God offers us, but we are reluctant to claim. Jesus is their inside all Christians calmly waiting to lead and guide us. All we have to do is slide out of the driver's seat and into the passenger seat.

We let him steer the car of our lives in troubled times of bad weather, or when we are too weak to drive. Most of the time in the sunny weather of good times and small decisions we take control. We like our lives. We enjoy being in control most of the time and we certainly like to steer down the roads we know best and that feel safe to us.

We find it hard to relax in the passenger seat when Jesus steers us down unfamiliar roads. We are uncomfortable with the scenery and the stops. God asks us to get out and share His love with people on the road side and this makes us uneasy. We feel our faith is private.

God knows this because His son tells Him how we feel. That is why when Jesus brings us to these situations He does not just sit in the car and wait for us. He gets out and joins us. A big part of living Christ's simple life is unlearning what the world teaches us. We have to learn to live like children. This does not mean being naive, being silly all the time, or not taking responsibility. It means allowing God to be our parent. We can live in the safety of knowing He is there to take care of us. We need to take time to be with Him and learn from Him.

Enjoy your life, let God be in control, and most of all do not make things more complicated than they should be. Jesus offers us Salvation and simplicity lets claim both and become children of God. Live life like a child. Live for the day and do the things God, your loving parent, asks of you. Share His love with others. Do not make enemies make friends. Live life as if you are leaving tomorrow.

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