

010519

- I. My Notes... WWC message 1/6/19
- II. Series: Let's Live
 - a. Title: Live Daily
 - b. Text: Matthew 6:25-34 NLT2
 - c. Quote: For most of us, the great danger is not that we will renounce our faith. It is that we will become so distracted and rushed and preoccupied that we will settle for a mediocre version of it. We will just skim our lives instead of actually living them. John Ortberg (Pastor, Author)
- III. Introduction
 - a. Fresh starts are great. At the beginning of every sports season, everyone is equal and the potential for success is within easy reach. Hope is inspiring and exciting. The Apostle Paul, writing to encourage the church at Philippi, said this... "I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back." (Philippians 3:12-14 MSG). I don't know about you, but I find these words both relatable (understandable, agreeable) and inspiring. I want to keep growing in grace, to keep developing a deep intimacy with my Lord.
 - b. John Ortberg is a Pastor and Author. I have read a few of his books and listened to a sermon or 2... One thing he has said is, "People would rather debate doctrine or beliefs or tradition or interpretation than actually do what Jesus said. It's not rocket science. Just go do it. Practice loving a difficult person or try forgiving someone. Give away some money. Tell someone thank you. Encourage a friend. Bless an enemy. Say, "I'm sorry."

Worship God. You already know more than you need to know." People are often caught wondering what to do, what the next step might be in their life. Like Pastor Ortberg said, "Just go do it". If you have been around for even a short bit of time, you know enough. Let the application of God's love in the lives of others become your teacher.

- c. I going to say something radical here. I probably goes against every idea one might hold regarding church and what Christianity is. Paying attention to the words and actions of Jesus would take us to a place where being the church kept us so busy we might not have much time to "go to church". The idea that our actions and efforts were about bringing glory to the Lord can go against the reality of church today. The NT church was self-sustaining because they were focused on sharing God's love – the Gospel message – and they brought all they had together to take care of each other. All needs were met. No one held their gifts or abilities as superior (better) – the common goal was bringing the glory to God, just as He deserves. "Everything you do or say should be done to obey Jesus your Lord. And in all you do, give thanks to God the Father through Jesus." (Colossians 3:17 NCV). Our actions, attitudes, and alignment of purpose are about pointing others to the Lord God.
- d. We have a chance to begin renewed. It's a time to turn our attention again to what is important. Even the Lord God tells us this. Jesus said in John 10 that He showed up to give us a life that was beyond all our preconceived ideas and expectations (vs. 10 – my paraphrase). And through the prophet Isaiah God told all that... "Forget what happened before, and do not think about the past. Look at the new thing I am going to do. It is already happening. Don't you see it? I will make a road in the desert and rivers in the dry land." (Isaiah 43:18-19 NCV). Remember what Paul said, I'm looking forward – I'm not looking back. The Lord God has made it a point not to dwell on the past, not to focus on the mistakes or failures. Many times these things result in a poor view, in stress, and cause distraction

- e. The Christian life is one of growth, of process. It isn't a destination but a journey with the focus and attention on the Lord. It's too bad that we get distracted by temporal things.

IV. Text

a. Matthew 6:25-34 (NLT2)

"That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith? "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today."

- b. Do you know anyone that's tired, worn out?
- c. How about distracted?
- d. Life can be difficult, it can also bring incredible joy and adventure
- e. And the admonition to trust the Lord brings one a variety of responses; there is incredible comfort and acceptance, it can also bring stress and anxiety
- f. Fear and doubt are responses that most seem to rely on.

- g. Ok, I need to step away from the negative course... Let's find some encouragement as we seek to understand some of what the Lord is saying here

V. Everyday Life

- a. Relationships, even at the beginning, are challenging
- b. Ok, I've tried to write this 5 or 6 times... I'm getting out of the way
- c. I remember coming into a relationship with the Lord.... Initially, it was because I didn't want a "black heart". I realized at a young age that there was a lot about my life that wasn't pleasing to the Lord
- d. Sister Cora Howard had a group of kids in the parsonage and explained to us about what Jesus did and our need for a Savior
- e. That was my first step into the relationship of a lifetime
- f. Jesus is telling us in this that building a relationship with the Lord, that choosing to trust Him, is what's best for us
- g. We seem to find things to worry about.... What am I going to eat? Is it the right nourishment?
- h. How do I look? Is what I'm wearing in style with those around me? Do I look different?
- i. Now, I am not saying that we shouldn't pay attention to the details of life
- j. There is a difference in paying attention and fixating – living preoccupied
- k. There are times that I have been consumed by struggles, by difficult circumstances. During those moments my thoughts and focused revolved around what to do – how to get relief
- l. The Lord is going to meet our needs.

m. I can tell you that there hasn't been a time that He didn't come through. It may not have been the way that I wanted or that I imagined but I can look back at the circumstances of my life and say (confidently) that the Lord always showed up – at the right moment

VI. The New Thing

a. It is imperative that we grab onto this idea... the Lord God is more interested in our future than He is in our past

b. The problems and mistakes of yesterday are gone. We are the only ones that hold a memory of them

c. Isaiah 43:25 (ESV)

“I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.”

d. Hebrews 8:12 (NCV)

“I will forgive them for the wicked things they did, and I will not remember their sins anymore. “

e. God isn't stuck on our past. He isn't trying to get you to remember all the ways you have fallen short or missed the mark

f. Confessing – admitting our faults and shortcomings, triggers forgiveness and the Lord making us clean. (ref. 1 John 1:9). Add to that, the truth, He doesn't remember and we can be ready to move forward on the bridge of intimacy

g. Jesus words assure us that nothing can get in the way of our needs being met.

h. We are the most important (and the most beautiful) part of Creation

i. God said He is doing a “new thing” in each of us. His desire, for His family, is fulfillment – contentment – wholeness... His best

VII. Expectations

- a. God sees us and our needs above all else
- b. Perhaps it's time for us to change our view.
- c. Philip Yancey wrote about our expectations and how they impact our lives
- d. Daniel Boorstin, former librarian of Congress and director of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, offers this assessment of contemporary culture:

When we pick up our Newspaper at breakfast, we expect-we even demand-that it bring us momentous events since the night before. We turn on the car radio as we drive to work and expect "news" to have occurred since the morning newspaper went to press. Returning in the evening, we expect our house not only to shelter us , to keep us warm in winter and cool in summer, but to relax us, to dignify us, to encompass us with soft music and interesting hobbies, to be a playground, a theatre, and a bar. We expect our two-week vacation to be romantic, exotic, cheap and effortless. We expect a far-away atmosphere if we go to a near-by place; and we expect everything to be relaxing, sanitary, and Americanized if we go to a far-away place. We expect new heroes every season, a literary masterpiece every month, a dramatic spectacular every week, a rare sensation every night. We expect everybody to feel free to disagree, yet we expect everybody to be loyal, not to rock the boat or take the Fifth Amendment. We expect everybody to believe deeply in his religion, yet not to think less of others for not believing. We expect our nation to be strong and great and vast and varied and prepared for every challenge; yet we expect our 'national purpose' to be clear and simple, something that gives direction to the lives of two hundred million people and yet can be bought in a paperback at the corner drugstore for a dollar.

We expect anything and everything. We expect the contradictory and the impossible. We expect compact cars which are spacious; luxurious cars

which are economical. We expect to be rich and charitable, powerful and merciful, active and reflective, kind and competitive. We expect to be inspired by mediocre appeals for 'excellence' to be made literate by illiterate appeals for literacy. We expect to eat and stay thin, to be constantly on the move and ever more neighborly, to go to the "church of our choice" and yet feel its guiding power over us, to revere God and to be God.

- e. Never have people been more the masters of their environment. Yet never has a people felt more deceived and disappointed. (Philip Yancey, *Finding God in Unexpected Places*, Waterbrook Publishing, 2008)
- f. Releasing our expectations is a good start to reshaping our view on life

VIII. Perspective

- a. We can be truly content in life if we can grow to trust the Lord in meeting our basic needs
- b. It's the pursuit of the temporal things that bring stress and anxiety into our lives.
- c. Learning and trusting that God's intentions and abilities are sufficient to meet all our needs helps puts our priorities in order
- d. We can see that in developing an intimacy, in seeking Him and doing our best to honor and glorify Him in all we do, contentment and completeness are found
- e. Hungering to live right, desiring to be obedient, is what helps us stay on course.
- f. The Apostle Paul encouraged Timothy, "There is a real profit, of course, but it comes only to those who live contentedly as God would have them live. We brought absolutely nothing with us when we entered the world and we can be sure we shall take absolutely nothing with us when we leave it. Surely

then, as far as physical things are concerned, it is sufficient for us to keep our bodies fed and clothed." (1 Timothy 6:6-8 Phillips NT)

- g. Contentment is that down deep realization and knowing that our needs are taken care of by the Lord
- h. Possessions – things – material wealth is external and temporal. Contentment – satisfaction is internal and comes from our relationship with the Lord
- i. Possessions will decay and burn... Contentment comes from Godliness and that goes with us throughout eternity

IX. Final Thought

- a. Elephants live longer than people because they never worry about trying to lose weight 😊. They focus on their day to day existence and their journey
- b. Authenticity and being honest with one's self is important to the next steps along our journey
- c. Proverbs 28:13 (CSB)

The one who conceals his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them will find mercy.
- d. Let's examine our priorities and work on the issues we have with trust in the relationships we have
- e. Let's Pray
- f. May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord allow His glory to light your path. And may you find rest in the choices you make each day.