

THE OPENING:

- HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED THAT LIFE DOESN'T ALWAYS GO AS PLANNED? CELEBRATIONS TURN INTO DISAPPOINTMENTS. CONVERSATIONS TURN INTO ARGUMENTS. A QUICK TRIP TURNS INTO AN ALL-DAY EVENT. A DAY OFF TURNS INTO A DAY THAT YOU CAN'T JUST TURN OFF.
- WHAT IF YOU GOT SERIOUS ABOUT THE STEPS YOU TAKE TO IMPROVE...?
- IN TONIGHT'S MESSAGE, I WANT TO INVITE YOU TO CONSIDER THAT ONE THING WHICH IS MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU, AT THIS MOMENT IN YOUR LIFE. YOU MIGHT HAVE A LIST IN FRONT OF YOU - BUT SHRINK IT DOWN!
- "THE WORD *PRIORITY* CAME INTO THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN THE 1400s. IT WAS SINGULAR. IT MEANT THE VERY FIRST OR PRIOR THING. ONLY IN THE 1900s DID WE PLURALIZE THE TERM AND START TALKING ABOUT *PRIORITIES*." – GREG MCKEOWN, ESSENTIALISM

THE MAIN POINT:

- OTHER PEOPLE WILL EASILY GIVE YOU/ME A LIST OF THINGS TO DO, BUT WE SHOULD BECOME CLEAR ON THE THINGS THAT NO-ONE ELSE CAN DO.

I BELIEVE THAT WE MAY ALL BE BREATHING, BUT WE'RE NOT ALL ALIVE:

- IF WE DON'T COME TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE ALL UNIQUELY MADE, THEN OTHERS WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF KNOWING SOMEONE WHO WAS ALTRUISTIC, CREATIVE, FOCUSED, PASSIONATE, ETC.
- **ALTRUISTIC:** UNSELFISHLY CONCERNED FOR OR DEVOTED TO THE WELFARE OF OTHERS

THE TEXT: READ EZEKIAL 18:4,19-32

- EZEKIEL CLARIFIES HIS TEACHING ON INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SIN. EVERYONE IS JUDGED EQUITABLY & INDIVIDUALLY, SO LET'S TURN & LIVE.
- **Q:** DO I HAVE AN IMAGE OF WHAT GOD WANTS? WHAT AM I DOING TO CORRECT THE WRONG BEFORE CHRIST BRINGS JUDGMENT OR RETURNS?

WE WILL ALL ONE DAY GIVE AN ACCOUNT FOR OUR LIVES (ROMANS 14:12):

- POET MARY OLIVER WROTE (THE SUMMER DAY): “TELL ME, WHAT IS IT YOU PLAN TO DO / WITH YOUR ONE WILD AND PRECIOUS LIFE?”
- THIS IS WHAT I WANT FOR US TO DO - BEGIN ANSWERING THE QUESTION.

THE NEXT STEP:

- IDENTIFY THAT ONE THING IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW WHICH IS A PRIORITY.
- TO HELP ANSWER THIS QUESTION – ASK YOURSELF (1) WHAT IS YOUR PURPOSE? AND (2), WHAT PROBLEMS MUST YOU ADDRESS RIGHT NOW?

WHAT WILL YOUR RESPONSE BE AFTER READING THE WORD OF GOD?

- GOD’S PLAN FOR CHRIST JESUS: **1 COR.15:25-26** ‘FOR CHRIST MUST REIGN UNTIL HE HUMBLING ALL HIS ENEMIES BENEATH HIS FEET. 26. AND THE LAST ENEMY TO BE DESTROYED IS DEATH.
- GOD’S PLAN FOR HIS CREATION: **GENESIS 1:26-28** ‘...GOD SAID TO THEM (MALE AND FEMALE), “BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY; FILL THE EARTH AND SUBDUCE IT; HAVE DOMINION OVER THE FISH OF THE SEA, OVER THE BIRDS OF THE AIR, AND OVER EVERY LIVING THING THAT MOVES ON THE EARTH.”
- GOD’S PLAN FOR HIS FAITHFUL ONES: **2 COR.10:5-6** ‘WE DESTROY EVERY PROUD OBSTACLE THAT KEEPS PEOPLE FROM KNOWING GOD. WE CAPTURE THEIR REBELLIOUS THOUGHTS & TEACH THEM TO OBEY CHRIST. 6. AND AFTER YOU HAVE BECOME FULLY OBEDIENT, WE WILL PUNISH EVERYONE WHO REMAINS DISOBEDIENT.
- GOD’S PLAN FOR ALL MANKIND: **PHIL.2:10-11** ‘THAT AT THE NAME OF JESUS EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH AND UNDER THE EARTH, 11. AND EVERY TONGUE DECLARE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER.’
- MAN’S PROBLEMS:
 - **DISTRACTED:** LIVES CENTERED ON THE CARES OF THIS WORLD
 - **DECEIVED:** THINK IT’S OKAY TO SEE/HEAR/DO WHAT WE WANT
 - **DEFEATED:** OFFER VERY LITTLE GOOD TO THE WORLD AROUND US

REV.2:4-5 “BUT I HAVE THIS COMPLAINT AGAINST YOU. YOU DON’T LOVE ME OR EACH OTHER AS YOU DID AT FIRST! 5. LOOK HOW FAR YOU HAVE FALLEN! TURN

BACK TO ME & DO THE WORKS YOU DID AT FIRST. IF YOU DON'T REPENT, I WILL COME & REMOVE YOUR LAMPSTAND FROM ITS PLACE AMONG THE CHURCHES.

THE CLOSING:

- MATTHEW 6:31-34 "SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT THESE THINGS, SAYING, 'WHAT WILL WE EAT? WHAT WILL WE DRINK? WHAT WILL WE WEAR?' 32. THESE THINGS DOMINATE THE THOUGHTS OF UNBELIEVERS, BUT YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER ALREADY KNOWS ALL YOUR NEEDS. 33. SEEK THE KINGDOM OF GOD ABOVE ALL ELSE, AND LIVE RIGHTEOUSLY, AND HE WILL GIVE YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED.
- 34. SO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT TOMORROW, FOR TOMORROW WILL BRING ITS OWN WORRIES. TODAY'S TROUBLE IS ENOUGH FOR TODAY.
- **Q:** IF YOU WERE TO BRING TROUBLE AGAINST THE DEVIL TODAY – WHAT MIGHT YOU BEGIN TO DO (IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD, YOUR FAMILY, CITY)?

- IT'S TIME THAT WE BEGIN TO SEE OUR LIVES ARE FOR MORE THAN OUR OWN PLEASURE – THAT WE'RE HERE TO BRING GLORY/HONOR TO GOD.
- FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS MORE THAN A DESTINATION, ITS A JOURNEY FULL OF OPPORTUNITIES & OPTIONS THAT WE SHOULD DAILY BE PART OF.
- WILL YOU BEGIN TO PURSUE GOD WITH ME, AND ASK HIM HOW YOU & I CAN PARTNER WITH HIM IN BRINGING THE KINGDOM OF GOD NEARER TO OUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, CHURCH, AND CITIES?
- LET'S PRAY AND SEEK THE KINGDOM OF GOD AMONGST US.