

You Are Called to Bless

Sermon by Todd Lester

May 31, 2015

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.

Also Colossians 3:17, Galatians 1:15

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I USE MY LIFE TO SERVE AND BLESS OTHERS?

1. IT WILL _____ IN MY LIFE

Philippians 2:17 But I will rejoice even if I lose my life, pouring it out like a liquid offering to God, just like your faithful service is an offering to God. And I want all of you to share that joy. Also Philippians 4:4-5a, 1 Peter 4:10

Two Secrets to Gaining Joy: a) Take focus off _____ b) Use my _____

2. IT WILL IMPROVE _____

Proverbs 13:10a Pride leads to conflict.

Also Matthew 20:28, Romans 14:18, Proverbs 11:25, 11:17, 22:9

3. IT WILL MAKE MY LIFE _____

Mark 8:35 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.

Also 1 Corinthians 15:58

4. IT WILL _____

Proverbs 10:7 We have happy memories of the godly, but the name of a wicked person rots away.

Also Matthew 20:26, Hebrews 6:10, John 12:26

Only two things will last forever: 1) the _____ of God; 2) _____

A Buncha Bests

This is your very own Awards Show! You get to give awards to all the great people and great things in your life! Think of the "bests" in your life and fill in as many sections as you can. Then choose two or three, and tell the group why these things are special to you.

The best friend I had as a kid was ...

The best teacher I ever had was ...

The best job I ever had was ...

The best boss I ever had was ...

The best toy I ever had was ...

The best class I ever took in school was ...

The best book I ever read was ...

The best movie I ever saw was ...

The best pet I ever had was ...

The best birthday I ever had was ...

The best car I ever had was ...

The best vacation I've ever taken was ...

The best neighbor I ever had was ...

The best family experience I ever had was ...

The best church experience I ever had was ...

The best _____ was ...

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Icebreaker/Introduction

'A Buncha Bests' is an activity that ties in with Todd's points about making an impact and leaving a legacy. The instructions are pretty self-explanatory.

Read Ephesians 2:10 (recall that Todd pointed out that this message focuses on 'the good things He planned for us')

Ask if there was anything from this week's message that stood out – either a point that was made that really resonated with them, or perhaps a question or difficulty that came up for them.

Also [Colossians 3:17](#), [Galatians 1:15](#)

Todd reminded us that God has created each of us as a unique work of art. What are some things that make you unique?

How can we make menial tasks meaningful? (Todd talked about do things out of love for God, but how does that work on a practical level, especially with jobs like a factory worker where there may not seem to be a real obvious connection with helping)

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I USE MY LIFE TO SERVE AND BLESS OTHERS?

1. IT WILL CREATE JOY IN MY LIFE

Focuses on [Philippians 2:17](#) Also [Philippians 4:4-5a](#), [1 Peter 4:10](#)

What are some examples from your life where you've experienced joy from serving?

What is one new way that you could serve others (at home, work, church, the world)?

2. IT WILL IMPROVE MY RELATIONSHIPS

Focuses on [Proverbs 13:10a](#) Also [Matthew 20:28](#), [Romans 14:18](#), [Proverbs 11:25](#), [11:17](#), [22:9](#)

Have you found it to be true that relationships do improve when you focus on putting more into them? Is there a limit to how much we can give in a relationship?

Todd pointed out that one of the main purposes of our life is to learn how to be unselfish and that we can do this by copying Jesus life.

Recall some ways that Jesus treated people that may be helpful for us to remember for serving others. How did this impact on the relationships that he had with people?

3. IT WILL MAKE MY LIFE MORE MEANINGFUL

Focuses on [Mark 8:35](#) Also [1 Corinthians 15:58](#)

What are some ways that people use to try to find meaning in their lives? What are some that you have tried?

1 Corinthians 15:58 speaks of working 'enthusiastically.' How can we develop that kind of attitude?

Read Matthew 25:31-46. Todd emphasized that when we serve others it's not that we're just doing it for Jesus but that we're actually doing it to Jesus. Discuss this difference and what it can actually mean for our serving. (can we see Jesus in others?)

4. IT WILL LEAVE A LEGACY

Focuses on [Proverbs 10:7](#) Also [Matthew 20:26](#), [Hebrews 6:10](#), [John 12:26](#)

Todd shared about writing a letter to a friend who had made a significant impact on his life called "The Legacy of Peter McNeilly." Who is someone to whom you could write this kind of letter? What would you say? Would you consider actually doing it and delivering it to bring encouragement to them?

What would you hope others might write about you? (ie. what legacy would you like to leave?)

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Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

Galatians 1:15 But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by His marvelous grace.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I USE MY LIFE TO SERVE AND BLESS OTHERS?

1. IT WILL CREATE JOY IN MY LIFE

Two Secrets to Gaining Joy: a) Take focus off myself; b) Use my gifts

Philippians 2:17 But I will rejoice even if I lose my life, pouring it out like a liquid offering to God, just like your faithful service is an offering to God. And I want all of you to share that joy.

Philippians 4:4-5a Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do.

1 Peter 4:10 God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

2. IT WILL IMPROVE MY RELATIONSHIPS

Proverbs 13:10a Pride leads to conflict.

Matthew 20:28 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give His life as a ransom for many.

Romans 14:18 If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God, and others will approve of you, too.

Proverbs 11:25 The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.

Proverbs 11:17 Your kindness will reward you

Proverbs 22:9 Blessed are those who are generous, because they feed the poor.

3. IT WILL MAKE MY LIFE MORE MEANINGFUL

Mark 8:35 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.

1 Corinthians 15:58 Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.

4. IT WILL LEAVE A LEGACY

Proverbs 10:7 We have happy memories of the godly, but the name of a wicked person rots away.

Matthew 20:26 But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant.

Hebrews 6:10 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.

John 12:26 And the Father will honour anyone who serves me.

Only two things will last forever: 1) the Word of God; 2) people