

appnotes

DAY 1 READ JOHN 12:23-36

1

Young parents are often encouraged to cherish the little years. The older tell the younger to make the most of their lives. No matter what stage of life we find ourselves in, there are a thousand reminders not to let the time slip away because we'll never get it back. Moments are fleeting. Opportunities don't last forever. The people Jesus was speaking to in John 12 were not always going to have Him there with them. Jesus challenged them to decide what they would do with what they had before it was gone. We have the same choice today. Will we make the most of the moments and opportunities God has given us or will we waste them?

DAY 2 READ JAMES 4:13-17

2

Some of us are planners. We've got our calendars packed full a year in advance. The vacations, the business trips, the doctors' appointments. It gives us a feeling of control when we can look at all we have scheduled. However, not one of us can look into the future at all those things we have planned to see if we'll even be here to do them. Of course, we know we won't live forever—any moment could be our last. But do we live with that in mind? Are you living today as if it could be your last? Do you have any relationships that need mending? Or any people you could love better? Don't put off until tomorrow that one right thing you know you need to do today, because tomorrow may never come. Plan, but trust God with those future plans and make the most of today.

DAY 3 READ PSALM 39

3

The "American dream" is about the opportunity to acquire success and prosperity. It's engrained into our psyche to dream big and achieve more. Even as Christians who know that this world and all it offers is temporary, we struggle not to want more. But what happens to all our stuff when we go? Everything we have will eventually end up in a garbage heap one day. That's the bad news. The good news is that we have hope, the best hope: Jesus. He can never be lost or destroyed. We don't have to work hard to have Him. He lasts far beyond this world and our lives. Because of what He accomplished on the cross, Jesus has offered us a life after this life—one that will last for eternity. Where is your hope today? In Jesus, the giver of life, or in your stuff that won't make it past this life?

DAY READ LUKE 12:13-21

4

Day-to-day life usually feels pretty predictable. We go to the same stores, see the same people, get our mail at the same time every day. But at some point most of us will experience something that stops us in our tracks and causes us to reevaluate the things we do and consider important. Whether it's a death, a sickness, or the loss of a job, we have no control over those big, turn-your-world-upside-down, kind of things. And even more, we have no control over when our lives will end. Are you piling up things for this life while neglecting eternity? Or are you investing in things that will last beyond this life and trusting God with this life's unpredictability?

DAY READ MATTHEW 25:14-30

5

Did you have chores when you were a child? Did your parents entrust you with doing the dishes, the laundry, taking care of pets? As you got older, did you notice them giving you more and more responsibility? As an adult, can people trust you to be responsible for the things in your care? In this parable, Jesus tells the story of a man who left his wealth in the care of three managers. Each manager was given a different amount of wealth to manage. Each of them had to manage that wealth with the future in mind—anticipating the return of the master. We must all manage the time, resources, and abilities that God has entrusted to us. We must remember that our time is limited and that we could stand before our Savior at any moment and give an account of our management.

AppNotes are available on our Facebook page, Monday-Friday.

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