



DAY 1 PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

1

Have you ever started a project that seemed to have no end in sight? Sometimes life can feel like that. It's easy to look at our past mistakes or our present circumstances and become discouraged by a lack of progress. That's why I love Paul's reminder to a group of 1st century Christians living in Philippi. Although written thousands of years ago, this truth applies to you and me today. Ready for it? If you're not dead, God's not done! No matter what happened yesterday, God's goal is that we might become more like Jesus today. He sees your potential and wants to shape your future as you partner with Him. It happens one next-step at a time!

DAY 2 JOHN 6:1-12

2

The name "MacGyver" became an adjective to describe someone who is resourceful. The hero, a secret agent scientist, continually thwarts the plans of his enemies by using simple objects around him to create ingenious solutions to seemingly unsolvable problems. In today's passage, the disciples face an impossible task. Jesus gives the assignment of feeding a small town! They couldn't see an answer to this dilemma, but someone did! John tells us that a little boy brought his bagged lunch to Jesus, trusting that He could do the impossible. You don't need to be clever or have all the tools to get the job done. If you want to impact the lives of those around you, follow the example of this boy and bring what you have before Jesus. He'll multiply it in ways you cannot even imagine!

DAY 3 MARK 12:41-44

3

Have you ever received a present from a child? Isn't it funny we can cherish a piece of paper covered in crayon scribbles over the most extravagant or costly gifts? That's comparable to how Jesus felt about this poor widow's gift. This woman gave up everything she had to make her heavenly Father happy! That kind of giving was exciting for Jesus because God wants us to be joyful givers (2 Cor. 9:7). Often we give gifts out of our excess. We exchange gifts with a tit-for-tat dollar amount in mind. This season, as you practice generosity, change your standard. Don't just give gifts out of obligation or to check it off your list. Instead give with reckless abandonment. Even if you only have scribbles to give away, God is ecstatic about your gift!

DAY ACTS 9:36

4

Have you ever thought about what your obituary will say? Pondering this can change the way you live. After Ebenezer's visit by the Ghost of Christmas Future, he began to consider the impact of his life. When we live with the end in mind, we will spend our time intentionally. In the book of Acts, the writer tells us about the obituary of a woman named Dorcas. It plainly reads, "She was always doing good and helping the poor." If you want to live a life that matters, you must make choices that support that goal. When you get to the end of your story, you will either have regrets or leave a legacy. Unlike Scrooge, we don't get to see what our future holds, so we must make every moment count!

DAY GALATIANS 4:1-7

5

Have you ever made or purchased "the perfect Christmas gift" and couldn't wait to give it away to someone you love? God knows the feeling too! He waited patiently since the creation of the world for just the right time to hatch His rescue plan--an operation that would move Him from heaven to earth. In the craziness of life, sometimes it's challenging to remember that God is for us, and not against us. But, Christmas is the ultimate reminder of this truth. God sent His son into this world to rescue it, not condemn it. Christmas is about a gift that God extends to every person on the planet. It's an invitation to become a child of God. It's a gift that will change our eternities. If you haven't opened this gift, what are you waiting for? The time is now!

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

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