4/17/20 Devotional

This is the fifth in our series of devotions. Let us reflect upon two of Jesus teachings.

*“For the Son of Man came to seek and save what was lost*.” Luke 19:10*. “I have come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”* John 10:10.

Jesus, the Son of God, came into the world to bring divine revelation and salvation. Jesus was God’s self-revelation. In Jesus we see God. Jesus revealed God’s nature and character. Yes, Jesus was fully human, but paradoxically, Jesus was also fully God. Jesus knew his purpose and his mission. His birth, ministry, death, and resurrection were all in order to fulfill his divinely appointed mission. Jesus never wavered from his priorities. His priorities were the pathway to fulfill his mission. Jesus came to seek and to save. Jesus came to bring life, new life, abundant life, everlasting life.

Priorities are important. The challenge for us all is to discipline ourselves, to motivate ourselves, to keep them before us in the decisions we make. We use different criteria to determine our priorities. We sometimes set our priorities by preference. We all have our likes and dislikes and we do what we want to do and don’t do what we don’t want to do. We also arrange our priorities by urgency. Urgent issues get our attention and we strive to take care of them while pushing other things aside. We also sometimes set priorities by our values, by what we deem significant.

There are many benefits to having and following priorities. They enrich our lives in various ways. They open a pathway when our lives feel aimless. They give meaning to our lives. Meaning comes when we are engaged in things that we believe are right for us. They provide a sense of direction. It’s been said, “*If you don’t know where you’re going, any road will take you there.”* They bring a sense of satisfaction and fulfillment. They help us reach our potential and build self-confidence. They help us to use our time efficiently rather than spending our time in trivial pursuits.

Priorities are imperative for our spiritual lives. I have talked to people who said they wish they were closer to God and had a more vital spiritual life. When I asked about their spiritual practices, they indicated that they were too busy. They occasionally worshipped at church. They rarely read the bible. Prayer at most was grace at meals. They didn’t participate in church or in the community. Yes, many of us do lead busy lives. But being busy can also mean that one isn’t setting priorities. One is simply being reactive rather than proactive. Even Jesus, made solitude, silence, and prayer a priority. We are often told that Jesus would go off alone, away from the disciples and crowds, to pray.

What is your philosophy of life? How would you answer that question? Is your life in tune, in sync with your priorities? Or conversely, do your priorities reflect your philosophy of life? Jesus clearly lived his life by following his priorities. May he inspire us to do so as well. Blessings always,

Rev. Alan W. Deuel