10/21/20 Devotional

Let us consider the following passage from the Psalms:

“*What are human beings O God, that you are mindful of them, mere mortals, that you care for them, and yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands, you have put all things under their feet.”* Psalm 8:4-6.

A reporter for the NY Times wrote: “*One day in the late 1990s, Mr. Steve Jobs and I were walking near his home in Palo Alto. Internet stocks were rising at the time, and Mr. Jobs spoke of the proliferation of start-ups, with so many young entrepreneurs focused on an "exit strategy," selling their companies for a quick and hefty profit. ‘It's such a small ambition and sad really,’ Mr. Jobs said. "They should want to build something, something that lasts."*

Are we here to live a significant life or to just get by? Are we to live just for ourselves or for something larger than ourselves? Has God created us for inconsequentiality or for significance?

Does Jesus say: “Take the easy road my friends?” “Eat, drink and be merry?” “Get rich and get out.” No, Jesus sends out the twelve disciples, and later the seventy followers, into the world on a mission: “*Go out and proclaim the Kingdom of God and heal. And they departed and went through the villages, bringing the good news and curing diseases everywhere.”*

First, God wants us to live a significant life. What does a significant life look like? That’s what’s amazing. Significance has countless shapes and forms. There is no one standard or ideal, no blueprint or template. It might look just like you? Are you living a significant life?

I suspect that many people feel anonymous? “Nobody notices me.” “I’m nothing special.” The truth is that God perceives us differently than we perceive ourselves. God has given you dominion, authority, power. God has put all things under our feet, like we hear from the psalmist. Our life is a gift from God and God expects us to do something significant. God passionately wants us to accomplish something in the limited time that He has given us on this earth. God created us in His image, that’s why we are special and that’s why we have the God-given capacity to accomplish something in life.

Living a significant life requires a goal, a vision, a dream. It may be one life-long dream or multiple goals and visions during our lifetime.Nothing exceptional ever happens without a goal or something we are working toward. Sometimes our focus is too narrow. We focus on the little problems of life instead of seeing the bigger picture of life. As someone said: *“When you drive down the highway, it’s never good to focus your attention on the dirty spot on the windshield. It’s always good to see the whole highway in front of you.”*

Isn’t that true in life? God desires for us to enlarge our thinking about what we are doing with our lives. *A man came to a construction site where stonemasons were working. The man said to one, “What are you doing?” The stonemason said, “I’m chipping a stone.” The man walked over to another mason and said, “What are you doing?” He answered, “I’m building a wall.” The man walked over to a third mason and said, “What are you doing?” This mason answered, “I am building a cathedral.” All three were doing the same thing, but what a difference perspective makes!*

Second, living a significant life requires courage and faith. First,faith in God, and second, faith in ourselves. We can believe in ourselves because God created us in his image and because we belong to God. Faith says: “*I am going into the unknown but I am not going alone, I am going with one who made me and knows me and who is calling me to something bigger than myself.”* Faith is facing the unknown with confidence and trust in God’s guidance and power. Faith is truly believing that God can use us for something significant, rather than living an inconsequential life. Faith leaps beyond acknowledging our fears and human limitations. Faith lifts us beyond ourselves. And sometimes we simply need to pray for a stronger faith in light of our self-doubts.

Finally, living a significant life requires action, hard work, discipline, and good habits.Taking action, stepping out in faith, is so tied to faith that you can’t separate them. We are talking about obedience and faith and faith and obedience.

A conductor was rehearsing his orchestra. The organ was playing a beautiful melody. The drums were thundering. The trumpets were blaring out. The violins were singing. Suddenly the conductor threw up his arms and said, *“Where’s the piccolo?” The piccolo player said, “I’m just a little piccolo player. I don’t amount to much. Look at all these instruments, why do I have to play?” But the conductor said, “You may not hear it, but I can hear every sound and for the complete sound every one of you is necessary. Now play the piccolo.”*

Your part is critical in the plan of God. You never know when your seemingly small task is actually a part of God’s large plan. Remember there are opportunities all around us – in our neighborhood, our community, our church and even in politics. God calls us to lead significant lives in whatever that means for you. We may not see it, but God can see the big picture and hear the complete sound.

God calls us not just to survive but to thrive, not just to mediocrity, but to excellence, to give our most and not our least. And the amazing thing is that such lives can be lived at any age, and in any time and under any circumstance. God has given you dominion, authority and power, God has crowned you with glory and honor. Lord, use me for something significant in the life that you have given me.

May God grant you his power and peace,

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