

Monday, January 7 – *“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the grave, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.” (Ecclesiastes 9:10)* Pretty dark huh? You don’t like to talk about it, but you are going to die someday. It is a guarantee for each one of us, something about death and taxes. So, the question that is begging to be asked is today, how are you living the life that you have been given? Are you living with all of your might or are you simply coasting through your life waiting, hoping, longing for the next big thing? Does your life consist of “somedays” or are you the type to live today as if it was your last day on earth? Most likely you are somewhere in between. Your challenge for today is to examine your life to see if you are truly living with all of your might. Don’t do it because of some morbid sense of death around the corner. Live life with all your might because it is a gift from God and no gift is any good unless it is opened.

Tuesday, January 8 – *“I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.” (John 17:4)* These are the words of Jesus as he is praying near the end of his ministry. Notice the offering that Jesus has brought to God in this prayer. Jesus has brought an offering of “glory on earth”. This glory comes in the form of completing the work that God has given him. This glory comes in the form of Jesus being who Jesus was created to be. The greatest gift you can give to God is to be all that you have been created to be right out in front of everyone. To live the life that God has given you, with all your might. We measure a successful life by the accumulation of things. How much money do we have when we die? How much stuff do we have when we die? God measures a successful life by looking at who you become. Are you becoming the person that God created you to be? It’s not too late.

Wednesday, January 9 – *“Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.’” (John 20:21)* A disciple is someone who is being taught. An apostle is someone who has been sent. Consider yourself sent, thus, you are an apostle. Does an apostle ever stop being a disciple? No, for you will always be learning. Don’t ever think that you have arrived and that you know everything there is to know about everything. The moment you believe that you know everything is the moment you realize that you truly know nothing. Never stop learning, never stop growing. Yet, also know that your life’s calling is not just to learn and grow. You are also sent to use what you are learning and be a blessing for this world. This is where most of us fall short. You might have embraced the disciple, but have you truly embraced the apostle? Is your learning and growing benefiting anyone in this world?

Thursday, January 10 – *“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” (John 14:26)* How is it that you will continue to learn about Jesus, God’s will, the kingdom of God and the like in this present day and age? After all, Jesus died some 2,000 years ago, so he is no longer around to teach us. And you can’t rely on other people because think about how stories get distorted in this day and age after a few people pass them along. The teachings of Jesus are thousands of years old, so how could anyone expect them to still speak truth into our world? The answer is the gift of the Holy Spirit; the third revelation of God which is alive and well today. The Holy Spirit is your Counselor, your teacher and your friend. Everything that you need to know will be revealed to you by the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit, you wouldn’t be able to learn anything about God.

Friday, January 11 – *“Then man goes out to his work, to his labor until evening.” (Psalm 104:23)* What good is anyone if they do not have something that gives them purpose, a reason to get up in the morning? The worst thing you can do for a child or an adult for that matter, is to give them everything that they need without any effort on their part. Think about it, what would your life be like if you would wake up in the morning and have all of your needs met without any effort on your part? For some there would be the freedom to explore new things and to create new things, to paint or compose music or invent. For most, there would be slothfulness and laziness. The pursuit of life is the stuff of life. If life is handed to you on a silver platter, without any pursuit, in what will you find value and worth? God has given you life not to be alive, but to be lived. Life doesn’t simply happen to you, it is sought out and discovered by you. There is a big difference between being alive and living, just ask someone in a comma. Are you in a comma?

Entry Ticket: Jesus is in the business of what?

Who needs to be working?

For what will you "Seize the Day"?

_____ first, then argue about what made him blind!