

“What if...you only had 42 days?”

January 16, 2011

Proverbs 16:1-9

Question: “Do you really believe that people can really change?”

Who Should Change?

- According to a Gallup Poll, nine out of ten Americans say they pray daily.
- 84 million Americans—almost a third of the population—say they have made a personal commitment to Christ as their personal Savior.
- The Bible remains the greatest “best selling book” ever with an estimated 2.5 to 6 billion copies sold.

“A pound of meat would surely be affected by a quarter pound of salt. If this is real Christianity, the ‘salt’ of the earth—where is the effect that Jesus spoke of?” William Iverson

“We are like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea.” C. S. Lewis

- I. We are afraid of becoming “**victims**” rather than anticipate becoming “**victors**.”

Do you ever wonder?

- Why did my plans go wrong again?
- Did I make a wrong turn somewhere that led me down this road?
- Are my dreams not going to be realized?
- Why me?

- II. How do you typically respond to the challenge? Do you **complain**? **Question**? **Curse**?

Question: “Is anyone really in **control**?”

What did Job say about change in his life?

- I **hate** my life. (*Job 10:1*)
- Life isn’t **fair**! (*Job 10:2*)
- Why am I being **punished**? (*Job 10:3*)
- I wished I was never **born**! (*Job 3:1-3*)
- He was told to say, “Let’s end this **suffering**.” (*Job 2:9*)

Micah 4:12

“You can’t climb up to the second floor without a ladder. When you set your aim too high and don’t fulfill it, your enthusiasm turns to bitterness.” Emil Zatopek, 4-time Olympic gold medalist

III. How we deal with disappointment and unfulfilled expectations become **character** building tools.

What are the effects from the **scars** of your past?

- How many of us have had our enthusiasm for something (or somebody) turn into resentment and bitterness?
- How many of us still carry baggage from our childhood, from a former job, or from a past relationship?
- How many of us are allowing disappointments from yesterday impact our desires today?

Job 42:1-3, Jeremiah 29:11-14a

Life Change Lesson #2: Be willing and wanting to **change**.

Things to continue to do for the next seven days:

- ✓ Read one chapter of Proverbs and five chapters of Psalms every day.
- ✓ Pray thanking God for the day He has given you and ask for His guidance every morning. Talk with Him and listen throughout the day. Close the evening considering what you accomplished in His name.
- ✓ Continue to journal recording your thoughts, plans and goals for the next 42 days and record what happens each day.
- ✓ Seek the Lord in how He would like you to change in the next seven days. What are we doing that we shouldn’t be and what aren’t we doing that we should?