

This Particular Life

What God says about it... (Acts 5:20)

Last Sunday Morning Teaching

Blessings and grace to you. This was taught at the Longino Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Ms. Sunday morning (1.15.2023).

Message title: This Particular Life

Some things to note in this message:

Grace may not have led you there, but grace won't leave you there.

Your mess ups don't have to mess you up.

Look, if grace isn't leading you to it, you probably ought not go.

On the other hand, if grace didn't lead you there, don't let pride keep you there.

Grace won't lead you just anywhere... but there's nowhere, it cannot rescue you from.

Grace may not have led you where you are today, but remember this: grace knows where you are. Therefore, He will find you right where you are and lead you where you should be.

So don't think like a fool and ride your pride... confess your mess and turn your face toward His grace. There's no reason your mess ups need to keep messing you up. And while we're here, the mess ups of others don't have to mess you up.

"Study to show they self approved..." 2 Timothy 2

Study has the same idea of being **diligent**... it's something you do *earnestly, eagerly, excitedly, expectedly and enjoyably*.

It conveys the characteristics of being *faithful, frequent and fruitful*. (Psalm 111)

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction,

for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

2 Timothy 3:16

The word of God is alive and He, through it, brings to us clarity, conviction, correction, confirmation, confidence, and completeness in His truth... that we, as the people and servants of God, may have consumable and edible fruit hanging from our words, wisdom and ways.

"All scripture is God breathed, and is beneficial for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, (ripe... Ready to be picked and consumed like fruit on a tree) throughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

As Jesus said... the words I speak to you are spirit (breath) and life (blood) (John 6:63). As blood is life to our physical bodies (carries oxygen to all our organs and flesh) so is the word of God to the new man. It's life to the new man that finds it life in the Spirit of God making the word alive and able and active in them..

"For the word of God is living, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword..." (Hebrews 4:12)

Disciples see all news from God, no matter the content of that news, as Good News or believable news or trustworthy news: news that becomes a message from the word of God:

How alive, able and active the word of God is [in] me will let me see how close or how far I am to or from God's favor and presence.

The word of God is a report. It's news... God's news and insights upon the world, you and Himself... and not in that order.

Living (ALIVE)

Powerful (ABLE)

Sharp (ACTIVE)

Faith sees, agrees and acts on what God sees and reveals to us.

Faith is what makes His news personally profitable/beneficial/helpful.

God's WORD IS ALIVE:

It is life...
it has life...
it transfers life!

God's word transfers the RIGHT kind of life... to His follower (John 6:63 spirit and life)

God's WORD IS ABLE:

It is effective...

It's effective in the believers life!

God's word produces the RIGHT kind of response and results to life's test, trials and troubles.

God's WORD IS ACTIVE:

It's actively keen...

it's wise...

it's discerning...

God's word equips/furnishes the RIGHT kind of insight and wisdom on life to every follower.

God's news transfers its life to me when I trust Him and believe His news.

God's news produces its results/effect in me.

God's news furnishes its wisdom through me.

Life, results and wisdom are found in God's word when it's believed.

The word of good is ONLY good news for them that trust Him and believes what He says... (Micah 2:7 ; Hebrews 4:2)

The Payoff is Worth It

Doing the hard thing, the right way, always pays off... (2 Timothy 2:1-13)

The labor of the righteous is a reflection of who they are and what they are chasing...

"God's word answers these things for us. 'The labor of the righteous leads to life, the wages of the wicked lead to sin.' (Proverbs 10:16) Think about it, the labor of the righteous leads to life...because the life of the righteous leads to life. Proverbs 11:19 says, "As righteousness leads to life, so he who

pursues evil pursues it to his own death." The labor of the righteous is a reflection of who they are and what they are chasing...and the same applies to those who are not rightly related to God, through Jesus Christ."

Doing the loyal thing is hard. It's hard to not get entangled with the affairs of this life... but the payoff is worth it. (Priorities... payoff)

Doing the legit/right thing, the right way, can be hard... it's harder to win, doing it right, the right way, in a crooked world. It's easier to win by not competing fairly, but the payoff is worth doing it right. (Persistence/properly... payoff)

Doing the labor, the right way, is hard... but the payoff is always worth it. Not enduring unto the end disqualifies us from enjoying the fruit of our labor. (Patience... payoff)

Our work feeds us...

"For you will eat [from] the labor of your hands; you will be blessed, and it will be well with you." (Psalm 128:2)

Keep your eyes on Jesus and run the race He sets before you... the race and the reward is worth it.

THIS PARTICULAR LIFE

Acts 5:20

The power of preaching...

Preach and teaching

...the means God has chosen to introduce us to His warnings and wisdom, (**preaching** motivates and moves, **teaching** measures out the means on how to get where the preaching is moving.)

Preaching introduces people to God and His ways (usually to things previously unknown or it reminds us).

whereas

Teaching instructs us on how to rightly receive, respond and redeem the steps that God's given to us that we may walk with Him and live a life that reveals and reflects Him. (Philippians 1:28-29).

Everybody preaches, we all preach:

For example...

- Every time we take the Lord's supper;
- Our lives (we preach our own funerals)

Every action, attitude, awareness, aptitude, ambition, aim and affirmation is a sermon that either manifest Jesus or manifest a lifeless message.

It has an ORIGIN... it's ROOTED AND THE RESULT OF WHO AND WHAT WE BELIEVE.

This why the just live by faith... they life speaks (Hebrews 11) Adam, Enoch and Noah

Noah was known for what he preached: Isaiah 54

John the Baptist (One Voice saturating the mission with Jesus)

Ponder the path of your feet...

I NEED TO KNOW,

If everything and everyone preaches I need to know what makes preaching eternal and great.

What makes preaching great?

What I say, what I do, what I think, what I share... who is it for?

Who it's for (1 Chronicles 29:1)

I'm reading in Acts currently

And the consistency of the witness of God's people — that were led by Him throughout Acts — is this:

They **Opened** their mouths

They **Opened** their bibles

They **Opened** their lives

What/Who makes preaching powerful/authoritative?(command and ordaining of God sent presence of God)

What/Who makes preaching effective? The message we preach (there must be life in it...) to transfer life

What/Who makes preaching winsome? The blessings and burdens of the vessels pouring out the life and light within them.

The what can't ever be without The Who.

Why? The life Jesus lived qualified Him to die the death that He died. And the death that He died, because the life that He lived, qualifies us to receive the life that He lived. His life, through His death, becomes the substitutionary and atoning work that completely and eternally satisfies every aspect of God's love, wrath, justice, holiness, and mercy needed to be rightly related to His Father.

Therefore, by faith, we gladly receive the gracious and righteous life that He lived — because He lived it for His Father that His Father could graciously grant us the righteous life that He lived. And the life He lived then... He now will live that same life in us, when we, by faith, walk in the life that He reveals.

This life can be:

Embraced

Expressed

Explained

Experienced

Enjoyed

Evidential

1. It's a life not added or a major part of your life — He is your life
2. It's a life God graciously gives to intentionally and purposely change the journey and destiny of everyone living out this life.
3. It's a life divinely designed to interrupt and invade its subjects and their agendas.

4. It's a life that CAN ONLY BE MEASURED by its King and governed by the principles of His kingdom.
5. It's a life that gives new meaning to the WORDS: [Go, Stand, Speak, People, Temple, Words and Life]
6. It's a life compelled by the love of its King and commitment to lead others to Him.
7. It's a life that knows it must give away what it plans to keep.

We see the three fundamentals needed to be effective witnesses that Jesus brought to light at the close of Luke 24.

-The Savior (Jesus, His redeeming grace and eternal Presence applied.)

-The Scriptures (The message of God's Son and His eternal Purpose.)

-The Spirit (The Power of God needed for this work to be authentic and, therefore, to the glory of God.)

-The Sheep (The Priority of each sheep is to follow the love, light, and lead of their Shepherd to exist on this earth for Him.)

-The Subjects (The People for whom the Shepherd shed His blood to bring into His fold, who in due time will hear, heed and honor His message, ministry, and mission.)

Horizontal living for God, without vertical thinking from God, never works, no matter how passionate it may be. But vertical thinking from the Lord adds a quality of eternal life, truth and thinking to horizontal living... something Moses would learn and live out before God and his people.

Remember, when he killed the man... he looked left and looked right but he failed to look up.
(Exodus 2)

Moses looked every way but up.

I'm glad he learned how to look up... and that he didn't let his mess ups keep messing him up. Glory.

Everything... is a simple matter to Him. And He plants the unthinkable — in the heart of the undeserving — and invites us to trust Him and wait for Him to make the impossible... possible. He is

able... (Ephesians 3:20-21)

He is able...

He is able to do...

He is able to do exceedingly...

He is able to do exceedingly abundantly...

He is able to do exceedingly abundantly more...

He is able to do exceedingly abundantly more than...

He is able to do exceedingly abundantly more than we...

He is able to do exceedingly abundantly more than we can...

He is able to do exceedingly abundantly more than we can ask...

He is able to do exceedingly abundantly more than we can ask or imagine...

A God-size assignment... requires a God-size anointing. Heaven's purpose... requires Heaven's power. God's salvation... requires God's Son.

And one of the most freeing truths about your God ordained assignment is this: it wasn't specifically given to you because you were able to fulfill it...it was given and assigned to you because HE IS ABLE.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, who is and who was and is to come, the Almighty" says the Lord. Revelation 1:8

That's Him... He who had the first word over me, who sustains and satisfies me with His word and will have the last and final word over my life and eternity. Glory!

These words... glory, they bring me such great assurance and so much comfort. Now, don't miss this beautiful truth. The same God who will give them their assignment, is my Shepherd and King, who has given me mine.

Therefore, the principles are just the same, for me and every other servant, living on mission for Jesus, as it will be for them. I've been given a unique purpose to fulfill, my very own race to run, a clear course to walk for the glory of God, yes, His joy and will has been set before me, yes, my cross to bear, as a witness and testimony to His redeeming grace. Glory... and until I'm FINISHED, with my divine assignment upon this earth, I'm indestructible.

This doesn't mean I can't be harmed, hurt, attacked, taken advantage of or even killed by the enemy, but it does mean I'm indestructible until the mission is finished. And no matter what the enemy is given authority to do with me, it will never workout the way he or they intended. Why? No weapon formed against shall prosper to the full intent of their purpose... they do not have the final word. The Almighty, my answer for life and death and everything in between, the Alpha and Omega, spoke the first word over me and He will have the final word over my life and work. And the same applies to every redeemed servant of the Most High God.

No matter what they have to face, the disciples of the Lord Jesus — are indestructible and unstoppable — until our God and Father decides it's time to bring us home.

He promised, and He's proved it, time and time again, for He cannot lie. So, I encourage you, my friend, to REST in it, WALK by it, REJOICE over it, LEAD others through it and never forget to LOVE from it.

"And when they have FINISHED their testimony..." (Revelation 11:7)

Every word of Satan should come with a disclaimer... "But... I don't have the final say!"

Live, my friends, and live with passion for Him, fulfilling a purpose from Him. And always remember, you're indestructible...

When the Good Thing is a Hard Thing

"For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory, no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly... blessed is the man who trust in You." (Psalm 84:11-12)

Can you hear what I hearing? He is the SOURCE OF LIGHT, SHIELD OF LOVE and SUPPLIER OF LIFE... for all who trust and walk with Him and there is absolutely NO GOOD THING that He will withhold from each of us that trust and obey Him. Yes, EVERY good thing we need, for EVERY thing we face, we are promised. And by His grace and for His glory He will supply all we need to walk

through EVERY door He opens.

Ultimately this means He knows best... because what may not seem good at the moment can be exactly that good thing He didn't withhold to keep us humble, contrite and usable. Sometimes the good thing from God is a hard thing we will need to endure for Him and our own good. Like Paul's thorn and Jesus's cross... what do I see in them both? God knows best and we can trust Him with the rest.

He's promised to withhold no good thing from those who walk uprightly with Him. Sometimes the hard thing is a holy thing. The painful thing can be a sanctified thing, a trial ordained by God, that He's using to get Jesus out of you.

He, better than anyone, knows what's best... even when the hard but holy thing was allowed for our good and His glory. We can trust what He knows, even when His best seems undesirable, unbearable and unreasonable at the moment.

Now, we can either press Him TO fix our every distress, to our own fretting and frustration, or press INTO Him, yielding to His wisdom and work in us, that He can delightfully fix us, for the trouble we're struggling through.

There are NO lone rangers/homeless/rogue believers, who are walking uprightly with Jesus, in the body of Christ. The only exception to this Lone Ranger principle would be a missionary on assignment in a dark region of the world. Nonetheless, they will still be under the cover of love and life of a home assembly that has launched them out to establish a believer or group of believers in a part of the world where there are no known believers. Every single soul in Christ's body plays a unique part in His kingdom. Anyone operating rogue and out of order is "homeless..."

Notice how "without" is mentioned and draws the comparison to what Jesus taught about abiding in Him (John 15). He said, WITHOUT Him we can do nothing. Meaning, anything we do independently and apart from faith in Him has no eternal value. And every gifting He gives is intimately connected to Him and His people. There's no way around it. Being disconnected from the people He's birthed into His kingdom, His household is the same as being disconnected from Him. Missing out on dinner with His family is missing out on family time with Him. But there is hope.

Remember what Jesus said... "You're already GOING to work, and to the market place, and to your neighbors, and on vacations, and to the airport, and to the hunting camps, and to the fishing hole, and to school, and to the ball fields, and to the doctors, and to church and to family gatherings... so, AS YOU GO, make disciples of all the hostiles. Teach and demonstrate to all of them what I have

taught and exemplified to you. You're already going, just go NOW with a different priority and perspective, purpose and plan, power and praise... for I'll be with you, to grace and guide you, when you're going is for Me. Yes, I'll be with you when they rejoice with you. I will be with you when they receive you. I will be with you when they reject you. I will be with you when they praise you. I will be with you when they persecute you. I will be with you when they deny you. I will be with you when they fire you. I will be with you when they accept you. I will be with you when they jail you. I will be with you when they bankrupt you. I will be with you when they kill you. I will be with you when they behead you... go for Me, and I will forever be with you, UNTIL the end of time." (Matthew 28:18-20)

"Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life." Acts 5:20

For all of God's assignments will include a place and people, in one way or another. No one in His will, from the ravens nor the prophet, will lack a thing, as long as they trust and obey Him in the assignment given.

The same applies to us... if we're on assignment, in the right place, serving the right people, we've been given to serve, we can rest assured that we'll be fed and led by the Lord, in that place and among those people for the right purpose until He gives us a new assignment. But what comes before the purpose and provision is a gracious command from God. His WORD always precedes help from Him... yes, life, authority, and deliverance must proceed out of His mouth before we can ever embrace or experience them in the natural. He sends and we trust what He sends. We walk in His life, fed by His life that we may minister His life.

"Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life." Acts 5:20

Step Out (Go, in your going urgently)

Stand Firm (on who and what you believe)

Speak Up (share the gospel, grace and truth)

Show Forth (your new life)

I come as the messenger of the Lord, like the Angel of the Lord, that revealed to the disciples that God had opened the gates of the prison and commanded them to go with a purpose to the people and proclaim all the words of this life.

Go... my friend! When they try to shut you up and silence you, go, go and keep going.

Lord willing there will be a little something to encourage and edify you in it. Blessings...

#nestingwithjesus #acts #acts5 #acts5and20 #thisparticularlife #2timothy2 2timothy3and16
#hebrews4and12 #2timothy2and15 #job38and1thru2 #faithseesandagreeswithwhatGodsees
#hearingisseeing #kingdomlife