



2. Finishing Well - Personal Life Mission

“If you haven’t taken time to craft your life mission statement, when do you plan to do so? What are you waiting for?” (Jaywant Michael)

This is the second study on the series “Finishing Well.” Below are notes from the script and some discussion questions to guide you to a deeper understanding of this reflection.

NOTES & QUOTES FROM PODCAST

How we can practically live our lives in a manner worthy of what God created us for, and finish well leaving a lasting legacy? Here are some practical steps.

1. THE PERSONAL MISSION STATEMENT - Begin with the End in Mind:

I read a book in 1993 which had a major impact on the way I began to make decisions in my life. It was Dr. Stephen Covey’s 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. While I have consistently practiced most of the habits listed in it, there was one exercise he mentioned in habit # 2 *Begin with the End in Mind* that was life changing for me. Let’s do an exercise that Covey asks his readers to do. Imagine you are attending a funeral in a church. And as the coffin lies up front, four speakers honor the deceased person with speeches. The first one is a dear friend, the second a colleague from work, the third one a very close family member and finally the pastor of the church. As you hear their speeches you suddenly realize you are the subject of the speeches! It is your funeral and you are being honored!!

Now what would you like the speakers to say about you, your life, your character and your contributions that is true? At many funerals out of courtesy to the dead person a lot of things are spoken that are not entirely true. The different roles one plays in life include that of a child, a friend, a sibling, a colleague, a spouse, a parent and a member of society? If a person puts down even one goal for each of these roles they will end up with a “Personal Mission Statement” (PMS) for their life.

2. CRAFTING YOUR PERSONAL MISSION:

Mission statements can be created in different forms. It could be a sentence, a paragraph, a drawing, a collage of pictures, a song and even as their obituary for the front-page of a newspaper!

So, the form is not important, what really matters is having a Personal Mission Statement that distinctly captures your desires.

Viktor Frankl once said, “*We detect rather than invent our missions in life.*” That is a very important insight for

Christians. We must prayerfully involve God in helping us discover the deepest longings and desire - both of my heart and His. I suggest you do the same when you begin crafting your Personal Mission Statement (PMS). You can do this by using the promise found in Jeremiah 33:3, *“Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.”* Is it not a matter of comfort that we can find “unsearchable” things through God’s revelation to us? The very nature of the word ‘unsearchable’ is that we can’t find it. It has to be revealed. God helps us detect our PMS.

3. STEPPING OUT AND LIVING YOUR PERSONAL LIFE MISSION:

The next step is to actually put your PMS into action. This requires stepping out of our comfort zone and persevering. Moses’ life to illustrate this.

Moses was raised and trained by in the palaces of Egypt for forty years, but due to a rush of blood he killed an Egyptian and had to flee to Midian.

From being a Prince of Egypt, he becomes a shepherd in Midian. When the time was right, at the age of eighty God helped Moses’ detect his PLM for the rest of his life through the burning bush encounter.

Moses then had to find courage through God to face Pharaoh. He had to step out of his comfort zone many times while leading the rebellious Israelites for forty years in the desert and he made many sacrifices. We get a little clue of this from the author of Hebrews as to why Moses did all of this. Hebrews 11: 24 – 27 reads this way, *“By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.”*

Yes, Moses was able to step out and persevere because the PLM that God gave him was clearly etched in his mind.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you have a clear idea what your God revealed “Personal Life Mission” is? If yes, what form is it in?
2. If you don’t have a “Personal Life Mission” by when do you plan to have one?
3. In what ways can having a documented “Personal Life Mission” make your life more purposeful, productive and glorifying to God?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE

- In case you want to start preparing you “Personal Life Mission” statement that you will need to do any goalsetting, you will find a pdf document to download and use on the website. The file name of the pdf document is “Guidelines to Craft a Personal Life Mission – Exercise”.

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