

Make 20/20 Count! Focusing our Sight

Life Group Discussion Questions – December 29, 2019

Focus on the PACE OF LIFE

Titus 3:14

- SELF PRESERVATION is NOT always selfishness
Prov. 4:23
- CONTROL the controllable; PRAY about the uncontrollable
Phil. 4:6-7
- Live life at 80% capacity; monitor GIVERS & TAKERS
- Try a new SPIRITUAL exercise: 1 Tim. 4:7-8
 - ✓ SOLITUDE, FASTING, ACCOUNTABILITY/PRAYER Partner

Focus on one PROBLEM to put back in order

- Self-Discipline is a GODLY PRACTICE 1 Cor 9:24-27
- Self-Discipline leads to great FRUITFULNESS Luke 16:10
- Discipline yourself for GOD'S GLORY 1 Cor. 10:31

Focus on not being easily OFFENDED

- Taking offense is different than WRONGED, TOLERANCE, or INDIFFERENCE
- Offenses are only taken by CHOICE Isaiah 53:7
- The offended position is the WEAKER position 1 Cor 8:4-13
 - ✓ It separates Christian BROTHERS AND SISTERS vs.11-12
 - ✓ It prevents us from REACHING THE WORLD for Christ 1 Cor 5:9-13

1 Timothy 4:7-8, 'But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.'

QUICK REVIEW

1. Sometimes, when we are caught-up in the complexity and urgency of life, we fail to see God's providence. Share with your group how you can now look back with 20/20 vision over your life and see how God was indeed working in it. How has this changed you?
2. In your story above, what people did God send into your life? What character traits did they show that indicated they were attuned to God? Do you have similar attributes today? When was your last "divine appointment" with a seeker?

MY STORY

1. Our culture is very plan-focused, often with an aversion to unknowns in our future. What are some of the usual things we tend to plan? What are some plans you currently have in mind for your future? How do our plans become our idols? (see James 4:13-17)
2. When there is a big difference between how we thought it was going to go and how it actually went, our reaction is a big part of how we are actually trusting in God. How have you experienced someone reacting poorly to a change in expectations? What would have a Godly response looked like?

GOING DEEP

1. Read Philippians 4:6-7. Why does God say this as a commandment and not an option? What happens when we try to control something that is not ours to control? What does this say about our trust in God's plan? If we shouldn't control a situation, what should we then do? How well are you doing in this area? What is God's purpose in this?
2. Read Isaiah 53:7 and Matthew 27:13-14. Messiah was silent, not helpless. If anything, Jesus was in great control yet He was willing to yield Himself. How should this example of self-restraint change how we respond when we are wronged? What benefits can be gained by self-discipline? What kind of distinctions can we make between being intolerant and being offended?
3. Read 1 Timothy 4:7-8. This is a wonderful opportunity as a group to try a spiritual exercise or two. Until your next meeting, decide what kind of disciplines you will all agree to do. Will you seek daily, intimate solitude with Jesus? Will you fast in some way for deliverance in a situation that your heart is burdened for? Are you willing to be held accountable with someone in your group? Will you pray for someone regularly?

PUTTING IT TOGETHER:

1. What do you think are some of the challenges to living out each point?
2. Which of the above teaching points are most important for you to remember?