

## **Half-Time, Making the 2<sup>nd</sup> Half of Life Count - Part 3**

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### Introduction:

- A. I played football with a friend who retired recently said his classmates impacted him.
- B. We all impact each other.
- C. The movie Indiana Jones shows a man struggling to achieve eternal life.
  - 1. Making the wrong choice is disastrous.
  - 2. Making the right choice is fantastic.
- D. In Henry the Fifth the English do win the battle because they are connected to something greater than themselves.
  - 1. We all need to be wrapped in God's story.
  - 2. Being wrapped up in our own stories leads to failure.
- E. God desires we finish our lives well.
  - 1. Purposely.
  - 2. Fruitfully. (Genesis 1:28)
  - 3. Paradoxically like Jesus who was priest, prophet, and king.
    - a. Today there are many books written about living well.
    - b. Jesus is our model in living well.
    - c. Jesus is savior, Lord, and king.
    - d. We live in newness. (1 Corinthians 5:17)
    - e. Our lives are to be like a butterfly, changed to fly.
- I. Live paradoxically.
  - A. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus calls believers to be different. (Matthew 5-7)
    - 1. We are not to swear anymore but to speak truthfully.
    - 2. We are not to seek revenge. (Matthew 5:38)

3. Give more than is expected of us
4. We are to love our enemies. (Matthew 5:43)
  - a. Billy Graham spoke graciously for Bill Clinton when he sinned.
  - b. I was rebuked.
5. Our righteousness should be done in secret. (Matthew 6:4)
6. We are not to store up treasures on earth.
7. We are not to worry.
8. We are to seek first the kingdom.
9. We are not to lord it over others. (Matthew 20)
  - a. Servant leadership can be selfish.
  - b. We need to serve others unselfishly.
  - c. At Amsterdam 83 I was a speaker but had to serve by setting up chairs.
  - d. At first I resented it but realized I needed to do this for the Lord.
  - e. Our attitudes need to be transformed.

B. How do we live paradoxically?

1. Live like Jesus.
2. Obey the word of God.
  - a. Be in the word.
  - b. It calls us to a new level of living.
3. Love others particularly when they are unlovable.
  - a. Mother Teresa is a hero of mine.
  - b. I visited the House of the Dying and was impressed by the love the people received.
  - c. God will bring people to us that are unlovable.
  - d. This provides opportunity to appropriate the life of Christ.
4. Forgive others even when they don't deserve it.

- a. Jesus forgave those who crucified him. (Luke 23:34)
  - b. Most people that hurt us have no idea of what they do.
5. Bless others as Abraham blessed others. (Genesis 12:1-3)
6. We need great integrity.
- a. Live the life we believe in our hearts.
  - b. Paul told his disciples to imitate him. (1 Corinthians 4:16)
  - c. At your funeral what would people say about you?
  - d. Christ in us changes us into adequate servants. (2 Corinthians 3:6)
  - e. Jesus was tempted as to how would he use God's power. (Matthew 4:1-11)
    - 1. Turning stones to bread was about who would meet Jesus' needs.
      - i. If we meet our own needs we will never look to God.
      - ii. Jesus met the needs of many and got his own needs met by God.
      - iii. God meets our needs. (Philippians 4:19)
    - 2. Doing something spectacular tested who gets the glory.
      - i. Jesus glorified God.
      - ii. We need only please God.
      - iii. Play life for a one man audience.
    - 3. Bowing to Satan questioned who would be served.
      - i. It's easier to be God than to serve God.
      - ii. It's easier to control people than to serve people.
    - 4. These three temptations set the pattern for a life of servanthood.
    - 5. After passing these temptations God expressed his pleasure in Jesus at his baptism.

i. I have 4 older brothers and when I played basketball he picked me out of a group of his friends.

ii. This challenged me to play hard.

6. We need to understand God's love.

i. I made a red shoebox for my dad as a little boy.

ii. He treasured it all his life.

iii. It was precious because it was made by one of his sons.