

24 HOURS:

Part 1: Passion, People & Purpose

We have examined a 24 hour day in the life of Jesus. In that day He spent time teaching, healing, helping others, and fulfilling the purpose of His Heavenly Father.

He was finding direction for His day by a commitment to the priorities of His Heavenly Father.

Before you begin:

- 1. Make a list of the three major priorities in your life.
- 2. How do these priorities compare to God's priorities for you?
- 3. Are your priorities more to meet your personal needs or to follow God's direction for your life?

Monday:

The Foundation of a Meaningful Life . . .

1. Is revealed by your commitment to:

a. Your passion.

-- What dominates your thoughts?

-- What do you always want to do?

-- When presented with a choice, what kind of actions and investments do you generally choose?

b. Your choice of people with whom you associate.

-- Describe the people you would invite to vacation with you.

-- Describe the neighborhood in which you live.

-- Describe the personalities of individuals you avoid.

c. Your purpose.

-- What are your spiritual gifts? (If you do not know, ask a pastor to help you with an assessment)

-- What ministries do you think would give you opportunities to express your giftedness?

-- Where are you currently serving? If you have not made serving a priority contact a pastor this week to learn where you can plug-in.

Tuesday:

Benefits of a God-Planned Foundation

When the Foundation on which you build your life is made from God-planned ingredients . . .

1. You can prepare your minds for action. Romans 12:2

² *Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is.*

a. What is the first thing you do to prepare your mind?

b. Instead of allowing "the customs of the world" to be the basis of your thoughts, Who do you allow to shape your thoughts?

c. What else can you learn from this passage in Ephesians about preparing your minds for action? Ephesians 4:23-24

²³ *a life renewed from the inside*

²⁴ *and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces his character in you.*

2. You need to exercise Self Control. Galatians 5:13

¹³ *It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows.*

a. At what level do you operate life with self-control? (explain)

b. What area of your life do you need to practice more self-control?

c. How does God want to help you with His grace? Titus 2:11-12

¹¹ *For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people.*

¹² *And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with self-control, right conduct, and devotion to God,*

3. You need to live a Godly Life. 1 Peter 2:12

¹² *Be careful how you live among your unbelieving neighbors. Even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will believe and give honor to God when he comes to judge the world.*

a. As others observe your daily behavior what impression do they get of God?

b. How would taking time to invest yourself in the needs of another help reveal God at work in you?

c. How can you be an encourager to others this week?

Wednesday:

Build your Foundation on Jesus' Example

You can examine Jesus' commitments for the day to gain insight as to how you can build a better foundation for your life.

1. You need to have a passion for learning, fellowship and sharing.

Mark 1:21-22

²¹ Jesus and his companions went to the town of Capernaum, and every Sabbath day he went into the synagogue and taught the people. ²² They were amazed at his teaching, for he taught as one who had real authority—quite unlike the teachers of religious law.

- a. Do you look forward to Sunday, going to church and learning all that you can about doing life from God's perspective?

- b. What changes can you make to be more passionate in your personal relationship with Christ?

- c. Circle the words that you WANT to describe your passion for serving God and "X" the ones you don't want.

avid emphatic enthusiastic fervent intense ecstatic
passive lethargic dedicated devoted consistent
dependable quiet warm cool occasional

Thursday:

Blessings and Benefits?

Once you have a foundation for your life that is built on the ingredients that Christ used to build His life of service and ministry you will begin to experience blessings and benefits you never thought possible.

1. You gain a better perspective as to the timing of life's events.

Ecclesiastes 8:6

⁶ Yes, there is a time and a way for everything, even as people's troubles lie heavily upon them.

- a. What unwelcomed event has occurred in your life that in your human understanding seemed to be untimely? Why did you think it occurred at the wrong time?

- b. Now look back over that unwelcomed event and try to apply biblical truths that will help you view it from God's perspective and knowledge of eternity.

- c. How can you start allowing God to use that event to better your life and relationship with Him?

2. You can find more value in your current situation.

1 Corinthians 7:17

¹⁷ And don't be wishing you were someplace else or with someone else. Where you are right now is God's place for you. Live and obey and love and believe right there. God, not your marital status, defines your life. Don't think I'm being harder on you than on the others. I give this same counsel in all the churches.

- a. How does the passage apply to your marriage?

- b. How can you apply this to the neighborhood in which you live?

- c. By trusting that God knows best and has you right where He needs you, how can this level of contentment bless your life?

3. You can observe the transformation that God works in your life.

Galatians 5:22-25

²² But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, ²³ not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely. Legalism is helpless in bringing this about; it only gets in the way. ²⁴ Among those who belong to Christ, everything connected with getting our own way and mindlessly responding to what everyone else calls necessities is killed off for good—crucified. ²⁵ Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but work out its implications in every detail of our lives.

- Which of the spiritual traits listed in this passage can you find in your life?

Friday:

4. You can desire the best for others. **1 Corinthians 10:24**

²⁴ We want to live well, but our foremost efforts should be to help others live well.

- a. How long has it been since you felt anger or jealousy toward someone because he got something you wanted?

- b. Are you concerned about how you are influencing others?

- c. For whom can you do something nice this week?

5. You can give yourself away for the benefit of others seeking nothing in return. **Luke 6:38**

³⁸ Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing.

- With whom have you generously shared material goods, love, compassion, and forgiveness?

Turning Point . . .

- ♥ Love God and others as Christ set an example.
- ♥ Study, learn, memorize, and teach Scripture as Christ set an example.
- ♥ Spend time alone with the Heavenly Father as Christ set an example.
- ♥ Serve others not expecting to be served as Christ set an example.