

24 HOURS:

Part 1: Passion, People & Purpose

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A popular opinion today is that twenty-four hours doesn't seem to last as long as it used to. Jobs, family and other commitments may consume up to 20 hours per day. Despite the increase of time within the day that we dedicate to getting things done, it seems that we achieve less and less. Our response is to believe that even the simplest tasks cannot be completed in just one day, and depleting our days of meaning.

But what if we could fill our days with meaning...enough that we could accomplish the impossible within one day? Many have speculated if this notion is truly possible, and if so, how it could impact our world.

Jesus has already shown us how in a 24 hour period, we can literally change the world, through living a life of meaning.

One major aspect of His life of meaning was a daily commitment to His priorities.

Mark 1:21-28 "When the Sabbath arrived, Jesus lost no time in getting to the meeting place. He spent the day there teaching. They were surprised at his teaching—so forthright, so confident—not quibbling and quoting like the religion scholars. 23-24 Suddenly, while still in the meeting place, he was interrupted by a man who was deeply disturbed and yelling out, "What business do you have here with us, Jesus? Nazarene! I know what you're up to! You're the Holy One of God, and you've come to destroy us!" 25-26 Jesus shut him up: "Quiet! Get out of him!" The afflicting spirit threw the man into spasms, protesting loudly—and got out.

27-28 Everyone there was incredulous, buzzing with curiosity. "What's going on here? A new teaching that does what it says? He shuts up defiling, demonic spirits and sends them packing!" News of this traveled fast and was soon all over Galilee.

Meaningful Priorities

Our priorities are revealed through our daily commitments. Our daily commitments reveal three things about our priorities:

1. Our passion – the thoughts and actions that we naturally gravitate towards and protect.
2. People – those we include and/or exclude from our lives.
3. Our purpose – what we are born to do.

Jesus' commitment to His passion, people and His purpose served as the foundation of His day.

Having a foundation that is consistent with God's plan for our lives allows us to...

...prepare our minds for action

Romans 12:2 "Do not be shaped by this world; instead be changed within by a new way of thinking. Then you will be able to decide what God wants for you; you will know what is good and pleasing to him and what is perfect."

1 Peter 1:14-15 14 Don't lazily slip back into those old grooves of evil, doing just what you feel like doing. You didn't know any better then; you do now. 15 As obedient children, let yourselves be pulled into a way of life shaped by God's life, a life energetic and blazing with holiness.

...exercise self-control

Galatians 5:13 "For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love."

...live Godly lives

1 Peter 2:12 "People who do not believe are living all around you and might say that you are doing wrong. Live such good lives that they will see the good things you do and will give glory to God on the day when Christ comes again."

Building the Foundation

Jesus' daily commitments give us insight about filling our day with the pursuit of:

1. our passion.

Mark 1:21-22 "When the Sabbath arrived, Jesus lost no time in getting to the meeting place. He spent the day there teaching. They were surprised at his teaching—so forthright, so confident—not quibbling and quoting like the religion scholars."

Jesus showed a zeal for daily learning, fellowship, and sharing.

2. people.

Mark 1:23-24 "Suddenly, while still in the meeting place, he was interrupted by a man who was deeply disturbed and yelling out, "What business do you have here with us, Jesus? Nazarene! I know what you're up to! You're the Holy One of God, and you've come to destroy us!"

Jesus showed a reminder that we daily encounter hurting people who need God's touch.

3. our **purpose**.

Mark 1:25-28 *Jesus shut him up: "Quiet! Get out of him!" The afflicting spirit threw the man into spasms, protesting loudly—and got out. 27-28 Everyone there was incredulous, buzzing with curiosity. "What's going on here? A new teaching that does what it says? He shuts up defiling, demonic*

spirits and sends them packing!" News of this traveled fast and was soon all over Galilee.

Jesus showed a daily commitment to His purpose to see people **free** of the **barriers** that **separate** them from God.

Blessings and Benefits

A stable, growing foundation that enhances our daily lives helps us to:

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

Ecclesiastes 8:6 *‘Yes, there's a right time and way for everything, even though, unfortunately, we miss it for the most part.’*

2. **value** our **current** situation.

1 Corinthians 7:17 *“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.”*

3. observe the **transformation** that God works in our lives.

Galatians 5:22-25 *“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. 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.”*

4. **desire** the best for **others**.

1 Corinthians 10:24 *“We want to live well, but our foremost efforts should be to help others live well.”*

5. Give **ourselves** away for the **benefit** of others, seeking **nothing** in return.

Luke 6:38 *“Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing.”*

The Turning Point . . .

The foundation of a commitment to living a life of meaning starts when we **align** our priorities with God's **Will**.

Filling our days with a commitment to our passion, people and purpose provides meaning to **last** a **lifetime**.

Psalm 118:24 *“This is the day the LORD has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.”*