

What is our big goal in life?

3 Things I learned while my plane crashed by Ric Elias

https://www.ted.com/talks/ric_elias_3_things_i_learned_while_my_plane_crashed#t-276512

It can be a riveting moment in time, whether facing death or some other encounter, that hits us hard with the inevitable truth of death. We often ignore death because it is inconvenient for goals and ambition that society tells us we should have and most often rewards – future wealth, prestige, and power. We let our greed and ambition box us in with jagged edges, keeping out things that might be uncomfortable and slipping into a bliss that is not even ‘real.’ We do not have to think too deeply about it, we think about death so little that evening focusing some time on it is annoying and an inconvenience.

Imagine a distant cousin dies in another state and the memorial service/funeral is scheduled during your favorite summer camp that is already scheduled, so traveling out of state means you miss it this year. Do you go to the funeral? Would you ask them to reschedule it? What would your feeling be? I imagine for most of us our honest feeling would be something like – ‘no way, too much of an inconvenience and this is my favorite camp...’ Let us turn to Ecclesiastes and see if it can help us...

Ecclesiastes 9:5-6: “The living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing; they have no more reward, and even the memory of them is lost. Their love and their hate and their envy have already perished; never again will they have any share in all that happens under the sun.”

Yeesh, well that is depressing. If we read that it would seem like it would not matter if we attended that funeral or not... after all... they are dead... what do they care?

BUT, this text actually shows just how powerful death is and why it should never be ignored as a part of our lives.

Death helps us find our vision and focus in on what truly matters most to us. To us as human beings and us as followers of Christ. Because all our passion, love, good, and hope are experienced in this life, we must focus on how our inevitable death puts tremendous value on every moment in our lives. We do not need to be afraid of dying, but instead realize that it is part of our lives as much as anything else. It is good to remember to love those around us and focus on our important goals... and yes, missing out on a camp so we can honor the death of a relative or a loved one is always worth the interruption.

Core Questions:

1. Knowing I will not live forever, and that life can change in an instant – what do I really want to do or who do I want to be?
2. Who do you value most in life? How do you show that to them?

This week focus on who or what matters most to you and pray that God would give us the wisdom for discernment we need. Pray also for those that need a purpose for their life, that through Jesus they can find a hope for their future.

** Bonus reading from Matthew 10:

“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.”