

WHY ARE WE HERE?

Matthew 16:25

Introduction: "What's it all about Alfie?" goes a song of time ago. We've all asked that question. What am I doing here? Why am I here, How am I supposed to live? Who are we? Do we ever think about how to live? Are we more concerned about what's for dinner or what's on t.v. than what is life really all about?

I. SOME DEEP QUESTIONS ABOUT WHY WE ARE HERE

1. After 15 years of marriage and about to sell their house, the wife said, "once we sell the house we will live in different houses!" DIVORCE!
- A call to reassess one's life - what happened?
2. Cartoon character Lucy asked Charlie Brown, "do you know the mystery of life?" His answer: "Be kind, don't smoke, be prompt, smile a lot, eat sensibly, avoid cavities, mark your ballot carefully, avoid too much sun, send packages overseas early, love all creatures above and below, insure your belongings and try to keep the ball low." Lucy did not want "pat" answers! No runaround.
- Is there anyone who will tell it like it is?
3. Jesus captured a lot of truth in just a few words: *Matthew 16:25*.
- This is His answer to what life is all about.
- Losing one's life in service to Jesus will bring life.

II. THE SELF-CENTERED APPROACH

1. Everyone wants life, to be somebody, to reach goals, a reason to go on.
2. Most have no purpose in life. Why get out of bed?
- Life is a dread, a habit, to make money, to keep from getting yelled at.
- There's just no obvious meaning or purpose in life.
3. *Matthew 16:26* - Story is told about a portrait of a man by the name of Dorian Gray and the portrait got older as Dorian Gray stayed young. After a while, with no seemingly purpose to life, he slashed the portrait and suddenly aged. The portrait became young looking. To him there was no meaning to life.
- How can one find real meaning for our lives?

III. LOSING LIFE TO FIND IT

1. Jesus said to get involved with something outside yourself and suddenly you will find purpose in life.
- Ever see someone change overnight when a purpose or cause came along for them.
2. Jesus said to serve, stop dwelling on our own life, get the focus on others instead of one's self.
- Quit seeing life as what YOU can get from it.

3. Victor Frankl lost his life's writings when put into a Nazi camp but later found in a pocket of a borrowed coat a passage of scripture. From it he learned that instead of putting his life on paper, he should have been living those thoughts instead of just writing them down.

IV. TYING LIFE TO GOD'S PURPOSE

1. Where do we find the WHY of life? Jesus said when we lose our lives, for His sake.....
- Service, yes, but for whom?
2. What kind of life did Jesus live? What was His secret?
- His life had purpose. Everything Jesus did was connected to His purpose.
3. Our lives can be like Jesus' when our purpose in life is to SERVE GOD.
- No matter what one does, he/she does it because at the center of his/her life is the desire to SERVE GOD.
4. Focusing on others leads to finding the meaning of life. Meaning comes when we look outward, not IN. Serve! Not BE Served.

CONCLUSION:

1. The key to knowing when you have found life is in giving up self to serve God.
2. You will know when you have found life then.
3. Others will try to find out from you your SECRET.....TELL THEM! IT'S SERVING GOD!