

- The Eternal Perspective

Understanding the True Purpose of Life

Luke 10:17–20 (NKJV)

¹⁷Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.”

¹⁸And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

¹⁹Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

²⁰Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”

- *The seventy disciples returned with great joy because people were being healed, miracles were taking place, and demons were cast out.*
- *Jesus reinforced the fact that He had given them authority over the demons.*
- *“Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you” – However, Jesus then warned them not to rejoice that demons were subject to them.*
- *“but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.” – He told them that the source of their joy should be that they had eternal life and their ultimate destination was Heaven.*

Jesus wasn’t telling them to disregard the miracles God was doing through them, but that those things should not be the source of their joy.

- *We need to be thankful, appreciative, and worship and praise God when He does miracles, heals people, delivers people from demonic bondages, and answers our many prayers.*
- *However, our source of joy should not be in the miracles, but in God Himself and the wonderful salvation He has given us through Jesus Christ.*

The joy that God gives us when we receive Christ is eternal, but the joy of this life is fleeting.

1 Corinthians 7:29–31 (ESV)

²⁹This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none,

³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods,

³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

- ***“This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short.” – Paul is giving us an important insight about living in this temporal world.***
- ***“those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing” – This life is short and fleeting. Times of sadness and joy pass so quickly, it is as if they hadn’t taken place.***

“those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.” – This life is so short. In reality we never really own anything. We are only loaned things for a short time and then we leave them behind.

- ***This does not mean that our lives on this earth are unimportant. To the contrary, they are very important and the way we live now will effect how we experience eternity.***
- ***However, we must have the right perspective to be able to evaluate our lives so we can make the correct choices and bring forth eternal fruitfulness for the glory of God.***

1 Corinthians 15:32 (NKJV)

³²If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!”

- ***“If the dead do not rise, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!” – Our perspective will determine how we live our lives.***

If our view of this life is only from the temporal perspective, then all our decisions will reflect a self-centered emphasis focused on meeting our immediate desires to the exclusion of any eternal consequences.

Ecclesiastes 1:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

- ***Ecclesiastes best summarizes what a life is like when lived without the eternal perspective – “all is vanity and grasping for the wind” – in other words emptiness and futility.***

If our view of this life is from the eternal perspective then all our decisions will reflect a deep desire to please God realizing that there is something indescribably wonderful awaiting us in eternity.

- ***Having an eternal perspective does not mean that we cannot enjoy this present life, but in fact it means we can enjoy it even more!***

Hebrews 2:14–15 (NKJV)

¹⁴Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

¹⁵and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

- *“and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage” – The fear of death is one of the main fears that overshadows mankind, because death is something that everyone must face regardless of who we are, or how we have lived, or what we have accomplished.*
- *Jesus Christ has set us free from the fear of death through His gift of eternal life.*

Romans 12:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

- *Having an eternal perspective does not mean to ignore the present joys or sorrows we are experiencing as if they did not exist, but to know how to deal with them.*
- *“Rejoice with those who rejoice” – Even though we look forward to Heaven with great anticipation, we can rejoice in God’s blessings in everyday life which enriches our fellowship with one another.*
- *“Weep with those who weep” - Because we live in a fallen world that has been marred by sin, sickness, suffering, and death we understand that sorrow is something we face. But this suffering can be an opportunity to draw closer to God and one another as we comfort and encourage one another.*

John 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

- *The foundation of our salvation is our faith in Jesus Christ and His sacrificial suffering, death, and glorious resurrection.*

Hebrews 13:5–6 (NKJV)

⁵Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

⁶So we may boldly say: “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”

- *When we see everything from the point of view of our relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ it gives us peace, security, and courage.*

Matthew 9:2 (NKJV)

²Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you."

- *We can be of good courage because when we put our faith in Christ and repent of our sins we have been forgiven and we no longer have to live with the fear of our past failures and sins.*

Matthew 9:21-22 (NKJV)

²¹For she said to herself, "If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well."

²²But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that hour.

- *We can be of good courage because Jesus sees our needs and desires and is there to fulfill them.*

Matthew 14:26–27 (NKJV)

²⁶And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.

²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

- *We can be of good courage because even when we are plagued with doubts and fears He is still with us.*

John 16:33 (NKJV)

³³These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

- *In this world we will have tribulation, but we can have peace and courage because Jesus Christ has overcome the world and He is our Saviour.*

Mark 10:46–52 (NKJV)

⁴⁶Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging.

⁴⁷And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁸Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁹So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying to him, “Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you.”

⁵⁰And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus.

⁵¹So Jesus answered and said to him, “What do you want Me to do for you?” The blind man said to Him, “Rabboni, that I may receive my sight.”

⁵²Then Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.

In this story about a blind man named Bartimaeus who was reduced to begging, we can learn a number of important truths that will help us in our walk with God.

- *Bartimaeus in the Greek means “the son of Timaeus” and Timaeus means in the Greek “highly prized.”*
- *In the eyes of the world Bartimaeus was a blind man who had little value and was reduced to begging to maintain his miserable life, but in the eyes of God he was highly prized as part of God’s creation.*
- ⁴⁷*And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”*
- *When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus of Nazareth was coming close he stopped begging for money and began to beg for mercy.*
- *In this man who was physically blind, his spiritual eyes of faith were beginning to open to the reality of who Christ was.*
- ⁴⁸*Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”*
- *Those who were sighted were blind to the true heart of Christ and His compassion and love.*

- *“but he cried out all the more” – Bartimaeus was not deterred by the opposition, but continued to hold on to faith that Jesus was merciful even though all those around him were callous.*

Even when people and the circumstances of this life may appear hard and at times even cruel, we need to hold on to the truth that Jesus is merciful and He is with us no matter what happens.

- ⁴⁹*So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying to him, “Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you.”*
- *In the midst of the busyness of the crowd and all the demands and needs of the people Jesus stopped, focused His attention on this seemingly obscure blind man, and commanded the people to bring him.*
- *Jesus Christ, the Creator, stops everything else and sets His attention on one person who calls out to Him for mercy.*

“Then they called the blind man, saying to him, “Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you.” – The fickleness of the masses is seen here. One minute they rebuked him for disturbing them and the next minute they treated him as a person and encouraged him not to be worried.

- *“And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus.” - Immediately Bartimaeus cast aside his garment without worrying about it because his only desire and goal was to encounter Jesus.*
- *In the natural a blind man wouldn’t want to leave his coat behind because how would he find it again, but his only thought and hope was Jesus.*

We need to be willing to set everything aside that hinders us from encountering Jesus Christ.

- *So Jesus answered and said to him, “What do you want Me to do for you?” The blind man said to Him, “Rabboni, that I may receive my sight.” - Here we see a beautiful interaction that occurs in prayer.*
- *Jesus asks us what is on our hearts and we simply share with Him our burdens, struggles, and cares.*
- *Then Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road. – Jesus’ answer is as simple as it is profound, “Just as you have trusted Me, you are now made whole.”*
- *“Go your way” – Jesus was saying to him, “You are healed—now enjoy life.”*

- ***“He received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.” – The man did just what Jesus said and followed Him. What is more delightful and wonderful than to be given the opportunity to follow Jesus and live for Him?***
- ***Bartimaeus had gone from living a life that consisted of barely surviving to one where he was called by the Son of God to be His disciple.***
- ***Today is an opportunity for those who have never received Christ to accept Him as Lord and Saviour and find the true meaning of life and salvation.***
- ***For those who have received Christ but have fallen into the trap of misjudging God’s character and have become discouraged, weary or even bitter, today is an opportunity to repent and trust in God’s goodness once again—no matter how circumstances appear.***
- ***For those who have tasted the goodness of God, today is an opportunity to give thanks to Him and ask Him to reveal even more of His wonderful character to us.***