

Rooted: How Can I Make The Most Of My Life? – Part 2

10.24.2021

Today I'm going to teach a verse I don't think I've ever preached on
WellSpring just celebrated her 18 year anniversary this week

And in 18 years I don't think I've ever preached on it
I'm not sure why

Because it is

Quite possibly

The most anti-Spring Hill verse in the entire Bible

It is the antithesis of Williamson County

Not only do I not naturally like this verse

I think – on my own – I would question whether it's true or not

But I trust the Bible

It's God's Word

And so I know that if it violates my sensibilities

Then I need to adjust

Not it

But still – I think this maybe the verse that we violate

As much in Spring Hill

As any other verse in Scripture

James – Jesus' brother

Wrote this:

James 4:13-14a - Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow.

"Now listen, you"

Who's the you?

The you is anyone who makes plans past today

Right?

Because he corrects them by saying "you do not even know what will happen tomorrow"

So who's the you?

All of us

The most anti-Spring Hill verses in the entire Bible

Why does the Bible say that?

It tells us:

What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

Some translations say "vapor" or "morning fog"

It can literally be translated "breath"

All that we see in this life

Is vapor

Our houses?

Vapor

Our careers?

Vapor

Our achievements?

Vapor

Our kid's achievements?

Vapor

We are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

I don't think he's saying life should be by the seat of your pants

I don't think he's saying a calendar is evil

If you look at the context leading up to the verse

You get a fuller picture:

James 4:4a - You adulterous people,

Let me stop a second

Because that's a loaded word

If you've felt the pain of infidelity

If you've learned that your parents weren't faithful to one another

If you've been the one that has been caught

This is a loaded word

And I don't think James said it unaware

Of the emotional nature of this word

He's describing Christians

Living for God

While at the same time

Having a fling with the world

Having a fling with the vapor

You adulterous people

**don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred towards God?
Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an
enemy of God. – James 4:4**

What happens when a spouse

A husband or wife

Becomes a “friend” with someone else

They immediately become an enemy of their husband or wife

Now by God’s grace

I’ve seen many examples of how that’s recoverable

Many examples of two people

Who’ve become one

Who became enemies

And then God made them one again

If this is you

Don’t give up

Let us help

Adultery is not a modern invention

James is using graphic language

To paint a serious picture

Don’t miss that tone

Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the Spirit He caused to dwell in us envies intensely? – James 4:4-5

So you’re a vapor

Your house and car and career and plans are all vapors

But inside of you is something eternal

The Spirit of God who is eternal

Who longs to be our full focus

Our full devotion

Our full attention

And yet, God says {**SHOW JAMES 4:13-14**}

You're making all these plans

With your family and career and travel

Without really considering me at all

It's like you're cheating on me

With the vapor

We like the visual of driving through life with God

We have bumper stickers

Bumper stickers that attack *those* bumper stickers

Hit songs

That picture resonates with us

I think it's the picture that James is alluding to as well

James is saying that the Spirit of God should be driving

Because your soul is *the* part of you that's eternal

The part that's going to last... forever

Jesus spoke like this when He walked the earth

It was subtle

But it was there if you looked

John 10:17b-18a - I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again.

Jesus – and His body – were not the same

Jesus could lay down His body

And still exists

And then He could take up His body again

What is God wanting to teach us through these verses?

1. Our life is short

We're not guaranteed tomorrow

Let alone some random date out in the future

Our life is short

2. This world is temporary

If God told you that the world was coming to an end

50 years from today

October 24, 2071

Would it change the way you lived?

If God told me that

It would

It would *absolutely* change the way I live

I would have more urgency to tell people about Jesus

I would be less concerned about many of the things that grab my heart here

I would more focused on eternal things

It would *absolutely* change the way I live

And yet – my time in this world will very likely end before 2071

Some of you will go before me

Some will go after

But none of us will have a lot more time than that

Our life is a vapor

You may feel like that's pretty pessimistic

Be more positive

I am positive that this world is temporary

Our life is but a vapor

1 – Our life is short

2 – This world is temporary

And 3...

Well, you'll have to wait a minute for 3

Let's talk about how the Spirit inside us

Works itself out into the open in real life

I'm going to focus in on 1 Corinthians 12 to help us

1 Corinthians 12:1 - Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.

Step 1 is awareness

If you've given your life to Christ

You have the Spirit of God living in you

In Acts 2

The Apostle Peter tells the crowd

To repent and be baptized

For the forgiveness of sins

And the gift of the Holy Spirit

And if the Spirit of God is living in you

He empowers you

With one or more gifts

That He wants you to know about

Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.

I don't want you to be unaware

1 Corinthians 12:7 (NLT) - A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

The point of the Spirit's gifts

Is to empower you

To help other people

A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

1 Corinthians 12:11 (NLT) - It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

We don't get to pick

God divvies them out as HE sees fit

And Scripture tells us that God planned that out long ago

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT) - For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.

Catch the timeline here

He created the plan for us

Then He created us

Then we messed up the plan with our sin & selfishness
And through Christ
He has created us anew
So that we can do the thing He planned for us in the firstplace

That means

If you want to figure out how to make the most of your life
You need to get close to your Creator
To find out what He created you to do

1 Corinthians 12:27 (NLT) - All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.

Each of us

Every one of us

Is a part of God's church

And you may think this is a spiel to get people to work in the nursery

It's not

God wants far more than that

God says His church

Which we're all a part of

God says His church

Will make disciples of all nations {**SHOW MATTHEW 28:19b-20a - go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. }**

God says the darkest parts of our world

The places where Hell is literally protecting
That even the darkest places

**Can't keep His church out! {SHOW MATTHEW 16:18b - I will build my church,
and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.}**

God says His church
Which we're all a part of
God says His church

**Will be explosive in its power {SHOW MATTHEW 16:18b (MSG) - I will put
together my church, a church so expansive with energy.}**

So we'd love for you to work in the nursery
If you're called to make an impact on those little babies
And on their moms & dads
But that's not what this is
This is a call to lay down your life
To bring light to the darkest places

Sometimes we use the word lost to describe a person who hasn't given their life to
Christ

I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see
Amazing grace... that saved a wretch like me
A lost person
By this definition
Is a wretch
Or a scoundrel

But is it possible

That people today are often lost

Because they've become consumed with the vapor

They're lost

They can't see God because of the fog of this world

And they need the church

That we're all a part of

To be willing shine the light of Jesus into that darkness

Into that fog

Dr. David Livingston

The great missionary to Africa

When he went there

The missionary society that sent him there

Wrote him a letter and said,

"Dr. Livingston, is there a path paved to where you are?

If there is, we have many men that we want to send to help you."

He wrote back and said,

"If you only have men who will only come if a path has been paved,

I don't want them.

I want men (& women) who will come if there is no path at all."

God told us that His power is made perfect in weakness

But most Christians prefer to live their lives in safety

In comfort & convenience

In places where their weakness is most hidden

Christine Caine - "Most Christians spend their life praying for signs and wonders and miracles and then avoid the kind of life and avoid any context where a miracle can happen."

Back in the 1800's

There was a missionary organization called the One-way Missionaries

One of their missionaries was a guy named A.W. Milne

He was sent to a tribe of headhunters on an island off New Zealand.

They call them One-way missionaries

Because they would come to church and put all of their earthly possessions in a coffin

They would bury the coffin and then give them a one-way ticket to wherever they were going to go

And there was a high, high likelihood that they would never come back

That they would be martyred for their faith.

One-way missionaries

A.W. Milne went to this tribe of headhunters.

They never killed him

But he lived among them for 35 years.

He never came home.

And when they buried him, this is what they wrote on the epitaph on his tombstone

**"When he came, there was no light. When he left, there was no darkness."
- A. W. Milne**

May that be true of us

When they moved into the cul-de-sac, there was no light

But now there's no darkness

When she got transferred to our department, there was no light

The office politics

The gossip

The backbiting

No light

Now that she's here – no darkness

Matthew 5:14 - You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

Notice two things:

1st – we are the light of the world

Not we could be

Or should be

Or might develop into it one day

Or could possibly consider taking that on as extra credit

No

We are the light of the world

And 2nd - it says that a town built on a hill “cannot” be hidden

Not that it would prefer not to be hidden

Not that it shouldn't be hidden

If the light of Jesus is in you

If you are part of His church – expansive with energy

That light CANNOT be hidden

A moment ago, I had said that:

1 – Our life is short

2 – This world is temporary

And 3...

You wanna make the most of your life?

Be a light

Shine bright

Take some risks

Put your faith on the line

And God's power will work mightily

In your weakness

I said a moment ago that I had been inspired by a message from Christine Caine

I want to end with a story she told in that message

Christine Caine – Sophia – Barbie flashlight at Walmart...

“Mommy, can we please go and find some darkness?”