

A Life That Matters

(Philippians 1:19-30)

Introduction

Author Ken Budd describes a defining moment that changed how he lived his life. “I was approaching 40, my wife and I didn’t have kids, I was really struggling with that: I thought my life lacked purpose. But it was really that my father died. He died very suddenly after being retired for about a year. He was playing golf, and he just collapsed. It was like this midlife-crisis stew had been brewing inside me, and that’s the thing that ripped off the lid. When someone dies instantaneously like that, it makes you question everything. After my father died, people started telling me how he changed their lives, and I wondered what would people say when it’s my turn.”

In essence, Mr. Budd was asking, “Am I living a life that matters?”

Several years ago, my wife’s family was visiting together for a holiday and the conversation turned toward mission trips. Several in her family have visited mission points throughout the world. One notable exception was her brother, John.

As he listened to the conversation, he declared, “I am jealous. You guys are off making a difference in the world. All I do is make rich men’s toys.” He worked for Falcon Jet in Little Rock.

A life that matters does not depend on what type job we hold, how many mission trips we take, or if we are in vocational ministry. Every Christians has the opportunity to live a life that matter: a life that matters for eternity.

Probably everyone present has thought, “I just want to make a difference with my life.” In other words, I want to live a life that matters. That desire is seemingly innate in many people.

The timeless truth of this message is . . .

Joy results from living a life that matters.

Contextualize this sermon in the series.

Contextualize Philippians 1:19-30.

I. A Life That Matter Exalts Christ (v. 18b-21, 20)

Principle: Joy results from a life that makes much of Jesus.

- 1) Desire to honor (v. 20) “eager expectation”
- 2) Extent of honor (v. 20) “highly”
- 3) Method of honor (v. 20) “life or death”

Illustration: Eternal focus. For me living is _____ (v. 21)

Application:

II. A Life That Matters Invests In Others (v. 21-26, 25)

Principle: Joy results from a life lived for other people.

- 1) Priority of investing (v. 21-24)
- 2) Persistence of investing (v. 25)
- 3) Product of Investing (v. 26)

Illustration: Eternal focus. Serving people is great, but you must have an eternal focus.

Application:

III. A Life That Matters is Worthy of The Gospel **(v. 27-30)**

Principle: Joy results from living a life that does not shame the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- 1) Standing for Christ (v. 27)
- 2) Courageous when opposed (v. 28)
- 3) Suffering if necessary (v. 29-30)

Illustration: Eternal focus, because we are eternal beings.

Application:

Conclusion