

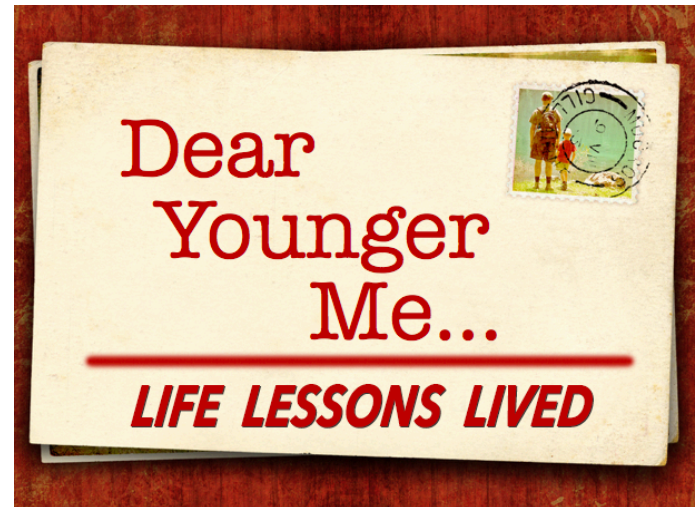
The Power of Your Priorities

By Dr. Timothy Lueking

Wednesday September 27, 2017

Dear Younger Me...If I could go back and give my younger self advice about how to live life then I would discuss "The Power Your Priorities."

Your Priorities Today Shape Your Principles Tomorrow



One of the most successful basketball coaches in sports history was John Wooden. During the year of 1948, he began coaching at UCLA and built a basketball program that would eventually lead to ten national championships in twelve years and four undefeated seasons.

But what made Wooden such an amazing coach was not his stunning win-loss record, it was the way he coached his players based on the Law of Priorities. What is the Law of Priorities? It is the understanding that a person can be very busy in doing many things in life but those many things may not always bring great accomplishment. John Maxwell defines this principle in this manner,

The Law of Priorities: Leaders understand that activity is not necessarily accomplishment – John Maxwell

The Starting Point

Every individual is confronted with many opportunities to carry out either important or trivial tasks. Some of these tasks will simply take care of the need of the moment and will not make much of an impact beyond this moment while other tasks will make an eternal difference.

Over the years, I have discovered that most people are not intentional about their daily priorities which ultimately brings us to the realization that most people are not intentional about their priorities in life.

Most people want to make the right kind of impact with their life but they do not know where to start. Don't delay another day, start by implementing the "Law of Priorities" in three areas of your life.

Area #1 – Invest Your Time Wisely Each Day

Applying the Law of Priorities means that you have to intentionally decide every day what to spend your time on and what to avoid. The 80/20 principle is best applied here. If you can identify and carry out 20% of the most important priorities in your life, you will likely achieve an 80% return on your effort. If your priority list has ten items, applying most of your time towards the top two items will give you an 80% return.

Always remember, there are 1,440 minutes in a day. That's all you're going to have. Nobody gets more than that; time isn't a renewable resource. You need to find ways to make the most of what you have. What you do—and don't do—determines your impact. This same idea is summed up by the Apostle Paul in these words,

Ephesians 5:15-16 – ¹⁵ Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk – not as unwise people but as wise – ¹⁶ making the most of the time, because the days are evil.

Area #2 – Connect With Others Wisely Each Day

You have 24 hours in every single day and during that time many different requests will be made of your time, energy, and focus. Over the years I have come to realize that there are three types of individuals that you will encounter: (1) The Encourager, (2) The Diminisher, and (3) The Drainer.

The Encourager will strive to come alongside of you, build you up, and equip you with the right tools to help you accomplish great things for the Lord. The Diminisher will strive to tear you down and point out your failures, weaknesses, and the missed opportunities that have only led to failure in your life. The final individual is the Drainer. This individual will consume large amounts of your time and emotional energy leaving you fatigued at the end of each day.

The good news is that you are in charge of how you invest your limited time in personal connections with others. First, be on your guard against those who will only tear you down. Limit your time with “Diminishers and Drainers” and you will accomplish more with less time and energy. Second, try to maximize your time, spending 80% of your time each day, with encouragers through the day but also make it your goal to be an Encourager to others. The same principle is found in 1 Thessalonians,

1 Thessalonians 5:11 – Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Area #3 – Invest Your Mind Wisely Each Day

The last area to actively invest the “Law of Priorities” deals with the investment of your mind. Each day will bring many distractions that will threaten to derail you with regard to your priorities. This also means that these same distractions will threaten to derail your thinking. Many individuals want to trivialize the importance of “thinking” when it comes to your faith but this only results in disastrous decision making. As you read through Scripture, you observe that you are to daily renew your heart and mind by reflecting upon the Word of God. This daily renewal will help you make wise decisions and arm you with discernment to be able to correctly identify the will of God for each circumstance you face. The Apostle Paul sums up this principle as follows in Romans,

Romans 12:2 – Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Conclusion

How will you make your priorities count this week? You have been blessed by the Lord with many opportunities through course of each week but you will also encounter many distractions.

Make the most of your time for the glory of God. If you were blessed by this blog then share this and other resources with your friends. Also check out the free resources section for updated information @ www.TimLueking.com

Question

What are the most important priorities that you can make this week that will make the biggest impact for the glory of God?

Share your thoughts and answers with me on facebook, twitter, or email!

For more information about this blog and other free resources, visit my website @

www.TimLueking.com