

THIS LIFE IS...

“Focus on the Target”

ILL: In the 2004 Summer Olympics Matthew Emmons an American athlete was on track for the gold in the fifty-meter three position rifle final.

Emmons was up for his final shot. He was so far ahead of the competitors that all he had to do was send a bullet anywhere through the inner ring of the target. THAT WOULD SEAL THE GOLD.

He prepared himself mentally. He paused his breathing. He took aim. Then he fired.

THE BULLET PASSED RIGHT THROUGH THE BULL’S-EYE.

But he was puzzled when the tone indicating a hit didn’t sound.

Emmons then realized that the bull’s-eye he had hit was on the wrong target.

He dropped from first place, with a virtually guaranteed gold medal, to EIGHTH.

THE RIGHT SHOT HIT THE WRONG TARGET

A. HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED HOW WE DON’T PAY MUCH ATTENTION TO LITTLE DAILY DECISIONS.

1. Who to talk to, what to buy, how to spend our leisure time, what deserves hard work, what needs to be let go. If these minor, moment by moment “BULLETS” of life are aimed at the wrong targets, what’s to worry. The truth of the matter is we’re probably not aiming at anything.

B. BUT STOP AND THINK ABOUT WHAT’S A LIFETIME

1. What happens when enough time is filled with poorly aimed little decisions.? Before you know it a LIFETIME has come and gone and you’ve completely missed the target.

HOW DO YOU GUIDE THOSE SMALL DECISIONS IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY EVENTUALLY ADD UP TO A LIFE THAT HITS THE TARGET.

ILL: TODAY I WANT US TO LOOK AT 3 CIRCLES IN OUR LIVES THAT OVERLAP EACH OTHER. (DRAW ON BOARD)

WHEN GOD MADE YOU HE PLANTED WITHIN YOUR HEART CERTAIN THINGS YOU VALUE DEEPLY.

FOLLOW GOD’S PLAN for your life this would become **your driving force**

Call these your: CORE VALUES - (write in the circle)

A. SOME COMMON CORE VALUES ARE:

1. The need for security, a love of adventure, loyalty to home/family, a passion for justice, pleasure in caring for others.

THIS IS MY LIFE

2. Whatever they are, your core values to you are like the pearl to the merchant.

Matthew 13:45-46 (NIV)

ILL: (Share the story of the merchant)

B. WHEN YOU ARE IN TOUCH WITH YOUR GOD GIVEN CORE VALUE.

1. That's exactly how you will think and live. If you ignore them you'll be miserable
2. BUT IF YOU PURSUE them you'll set **YOURSELF UP FOR SUCCESS.**

THE SECOND AREA IS YOUR:

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

A. JUST AS YOUR CORE VALUES WERE PLANTED IN YOU BY GOD, SO WERE YOUR GIFTS

Romans 12:6 (NIV)

1. Gifts and abilities from God are for everybody. They are specially chosen for the VISION God has given you. UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE GIFTED BY GOD

III: There's always those that say, "Not little old me I can't do anything"

3. BE HONEST. What are you good at.

BURPING THROUGH THE WHOLE ALPHABET DOESN'T COUNT

EX: Can you sing, dance, gardening, good with numbers, leader, cook, delegator, relational, funny, repair things

MOSES – HE LED TWO MILLION PEOPLE ON A FORTY YEAR NATURE HIKE

ESTHER – RESCUED THE WORLDWIDE JEWISH POPULATION FROM ANNIHILATION.

THEIR GIFTS – THEY BOTH HAD LEADERSHIP ABILITY

NEHEMIAH – ORGANIZED A GROUP OF MISFITS AND REBUILT THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM IN 52 DAYS.

IN ACTS WE FIND A LADY NAMED DORCAS WHO USED HER SEWING TO HELP PEOPLE.

SHE HAD THE GIFT OF SERVICE.

GOD EVEN RAISED HER FROM THE DEAD BECAUSE HE WAS SO PLEASED WITH HER HEART. (And probably because He felt sorry for her being called Dorcas)

B. GOD HAS GIVEN EVERYBODY GIFTS:

TIGER WOODS - DRIVES
JERRY SEINFELD – JOKES
STEVE CORRELLS – WEIRD SENSE OF HUMOR
NAPOLEON DYNAMITES – STUPID DANCING

1. Every gift and talent you have came from God for a PURPOSE. And He wants us to use them to benefit the body of Christ.

1 Peter 4:10-11 (NIV)

THE THIRD IS YOUR: - (write on board)

PAST EXPERIENCES

A. THERE'S DIFFERENT SEASONS IN OUR LIVES THAT GOD GIVES TO US TO PREPARE US FOR HIS FUTURE VISION

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

1. The nice thing about “all things” is that it includes pretty much “ALL THINGS”
2. The ordinary things, the not so good thing, the truly awful things.
3. God has promised to use them all for good for those who “love God” and have responded to “the call” to live out their vision for His purpose.

B. DAVID WAS STILL A SHEPHERD BOY WHEN HE FACED GOLIATH.

1. But already he'd had some valuable experiences that gave him the confidences to take on the BIG GUY.

ILL: DAVID REFLECTED ON HIS PAST

He Remembered When A Bear Attacked His Sheep God helped him kill it.

When a Lion came against him God gave him the strength to take him down.

2. **I DON'T THINK WHEN DAVID WAS LOOKING** in the eyes of that lion he was saying, “this is great! I'm getting experience.
3. But later in life **“HIS PAST GAVE HIM INSIGHT INTO HIS FUTURE”**

ILL: AS HE FACED GOLIATH KNOWING THAT GOD HAS DONE IT BEFORE HE WILL DO IT AGAIN. LET ME AT HIM.

WHAT HAS YOUR PAST EXPERIENCES PERPARED YOU FOR

VIDEO/SKIT