

Live Like You Were Dying

- Intro 1) If you knew you were dying . . . what would you do?
- a) Have you ever wondered about that?
 - b) Would you immediately begin to do some things differently?
 - c) Would you immediately stop some current practices?
 - d) I've thought about this many times . . .
. . . and I've never really decided what I think I might do.
- 2) In his song, Live Like You Were Dying, Tim McGraw:
Went sky diving
Rocky Mountain climbing
Bull riding (on a bull named Fumanchu)
- Loved deeper,
Spoke sweeter,
Gave forgiveness he'd been denying.
- 3) Are these some of the things that you'd consider doing?
- 4) Terry Pepper had 2 ½ years to ponder this question.
- a) He and LaRhea viewed it from a Christian perspective.
 - b) They thought about it every day . . . talked about it every day . . .
wrote down the points they considered most important.
 - c) LaRhea printed up some cards which expressed Terry's answers to
this elusive question.
 - d) She distributed these cards to all the family and friends who
attended Terry's memorial celebration.
- 5) Here are four simple keys to help you make the most of your life:
- a) Things you would definitely do if you knew you were dying.
 - b) Why not do them now, while you still have plenty of time to enjoy
the benefits these habits will provide?
- 6) Three of them were pretty easy to understand and to apply . . . but the
meaning to one of them has always been hard for me to define.

I. Be a Living Sacrifice – Romans 12:1-2

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

A. Sitting in LaRhea's house, I asked what this verse meant to Terry.

1. She didn't hesitate . . . she didn't waver . . . she understood this verse better than I ever have.
2. Terry said, "Life's choices are really pretty simple."
 - a. If you know that something is the right thing to do . . . then DO IT.
 - b. If you know that something is not the right thing to do . . . then DON'T DO IT.

B. What does this have to do with "Sacrifice?" ("present your body a . . .")

1. Doing the right thing is not always pleasant.
(going out and working your field)
(not an earth-shattering thing; just the right thing)
 - a. It might be boring, expensive, scary, inconvenient, exhausting, challenging, tedious, mundane . . .
 - b. Visiting an elderly person might be . . .
 - c. Being honest in a business transaction might be . . .
 - d. Putting in a full day of work for your employer might be . . .
 - e. Paying your debts . . . (the right thing . . . living sacrifice)
 - f. Doing something special for your kids, spouse, neighbor . . .
 - g. Sharing the gospel – teaching a class – showing up . . .
2. Do you see what it takes to do the right thing?

Sacrifice (present your body a living sacrifice – daily)
3. You would want to do this IF YOU WERE DYING
(live like you were dying!)

- C. “The World” (Rom. 12:2) has to do with the carnal, human nature.
1. We are naturally selfish (it’s the first instinct we’re aware of)
 2. We are naturally self-centered
 - a. We don’t want to sacrifice
 - b. We want to satisfy self . . . not sacrifice self
 - c. We think first about pleasing self . . . not others . . . not God
 3. But . . . if you knew you were dying . . .
 You’d want to shed the design of the world.
 You’d want God to see you doing the right thing. (Live like you were dying!)

D. Self Sacrifice also demands the refusal of Things that are Wrong

1. It’s not pleasant to deny the appetites of the body.
2. It’s not natural to “indulge” in things that are:
 Sinful, unhealthy, wasteful, inconsiderate, hurtful
3. It takes discipline to say “No.”
4. It takes sacrifice.
5. You’d drop such practices . . . if you were dying.
 (Live like you were dying!) (Be a Living Sacrifice)

II. Pray – Luke 18:1

Jesus told them a parable to show that at all times, they ought to pray and not to lose heart.

A. If you knew you were dying . . . wouldn’t you pray a lot?

1. For yourself . . . it’s okay . . . Jesus did it:
 Lk 22:42 “Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done.”
 Jn. 17:4-5 “Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”
2. For others . . . because you’re concerned about them
 - a. Paul urged others to pray for him.

I Thes. 5:25 Eph. 6:19	Brethren, pray for us. He said to pray: that utterance may be given to me that I make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel.
2 Thes. 3:1-2	that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, that we will be rescued from perverse and evil men

These are important matters – spiritual matters.

b. Paul informed others . . . “I am praying for you”

2 Cor 13:7,9	that you do no wrong that you be made complete
2 Thes. 1:11-12	that our God will count you worthy of your calling that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you
3 Jn 2	that you may prosper in good health, just as your soul prospers
Eph. 1:18-19	that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened that you might see God’s hope, His inheritance & His power
Phil 6	that your faith may become effective through knowledge

c. Scripture demands that we pray for others:

Jas 5:13-16	for the sick, the suffering, and those that confess sins
1 Tim 2:1-4	for all the people (even for kings and those in authority)

3. How do you live like you were dying? PRAY

a. Why? For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.” I Jn. 3:11

b. What good will this do? It will calm your anxious heart:
“Don’t be anxious . . . but pray . . . let your requests be made known to God. Then, the peace of God, which passes all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Phil. 4:6-7

III. Create Memories – Phil. 1:3 – Paul told the Philippian church:

“I thank my God in all my remembrance of you”

Memories are precious . . . make plenty of them.

A. Jesus did it

1. He arranged a meal together . . . intending to create a memory. Didn’t He?

Lk 22	It’s the Passover season He sent Peter and John to prepare the room He told them where it would be He initiated a practice . . . solely as a memorial.
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2. He took them up on a mountain . . . intending to create a memory.

Mk 9	Jesus took Peter, James, and John up the mountain He was transfigured in their presence. A memory was created which never left them. Peter lovingly mentioned the event in II Pet. 1:16-18
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B. You'd do this IF you were dying (live like you were dying!)

IV. Take Care of the People You Love – Acts 20:25,32

"I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will see my face no more . . . and so . . . I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified."

There's no better way to take care of the people you love.

A. Jesus did it

1. He Served them (washed the disciples' feet . . . taught them how to serve)
Jn 13:3 He passed His serving spirit on to them.
2. He Prepared for them (made arrangements for the HS to take over)
Jn 14:18-26 "I will not leave you orphans . . ."
3. He Provided for them (appointed the care of His mother to John)
Jn 19:26-27

B. Jesus took care of the people He loved.

Concl. 1) These are some pretty good guidelines for life:

Be a Living Sacrifice – Pray – Create Memories – Take Care of the People You Love.

2) By doing these things – you will know how to live.