



Readiness Over Happiness

Sunday, May 26, 2019

Dave Michel

Stepping Stones Community Church

A wise person thinks a lot about death, while a fool thinks only about having a good time. **Ecclesiastes 7:4 NLT**

¹How joyful are those who fear the LORD and delight in obeying his commands. ²Their children will be successful everywhere; an entire generation of godly people will be blessed. ³They themselves will be wealthy, and their good deeds will last forever... ⁴They are generous, compassionate, and righteous... ⁶Such people will not be overcome by evil. Those who are righteous will be long remembered. **Psalms 112:1-3, 4, 6 NLT**

1. The “3rd Generation” problem

- 1st: **Risk, Progress, Growth**
- 2nd: **Protect, Preserve**
- 3rd: **Decline**

¹⁰ After that generation died, another generation grew up who did not acknowledge the LORD or remember the mighty things he had done for Israel. ¹¹ The Israelites did evil in the LORD’s sight and served the images of Baal. ¹² They abandoned the LORD, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They went after other gods, worshiping the gods of the people around them. And they angered the LORD... ¹⁶ Then the LORD raised up judges to rescue the Israelites from their attackers. ¹⁷ Yet Israel did not listen to the judges but prostituted themselves by worshiping other gods. How quickly they turned away from the path of their ancestors, who had walked in obedience to the LORD’s commands.

¹⁸ Whenever the LORD raised up a judge over Israel, he was with that judge and rescued the people from their enemies throughout the judge’s lifetime. For the LORD took pity on his people, who were burdened by oppression and suffering. ¹⁹ But when the judge died, the people returned to their corrupt ways... **Judges 2:10-12, 16-19 NLT**

2. The “Happiness” Problem

- God called us to be **holy** not **happy**
- We need to focus less on **today’s happiness** and more on **tomorrow’s readiness**
- **Right living** leads to happiness

For the Scriptures say, “You must be holy because I am holy.” **1 Peter 1:16 NLT**

Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart’s desires. **Psalms 37:4 NLT**

Next Steps:

- ☐ Attend the rest of the “Outlasters” series
- ☐ Spend time this week praying and pondering over my attachment to “happiness”
- ☐ One area I know God wants me to change is _____
- ☐ Commit to becoming an Outlaster
- ☐ _____