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HOW I LIVE MY LIFE MATTERS

“If someone came and lived with you as your disciple for a week, what would be the effect on them of adopting your way of life?” This was the question posed in a recent podcast by John Eldredge that really got me to thinking. What if one of our grandchildren came to live with us for a while? Would they see what it looks like to be a disciple of Jesus my daily life, in my speech, in how I spend my time and money, in what I read, listen to and watch? Would it look any different than the way most people in our community and culture live their lives?

Our Disciple Bible study just read the story of Lot and his family and sadly we saw the results of what happens when we compromise with unbelieving society and slowly adopt its ways. Lot’s family wanted to fit in and not be different so they gradually became immune to sin. When God tried to rescue them from coming disaster they were reluctant to leave behind the comforts and pleasures they enjoyed. Lot’s wife looked back against God’s warning and was turned to a pillar of salt and his daughters thought there was nothing wrong with incest.

How do I compromise and allow myself to be negatively influenced by our culture? One thing I recognize is how much you and I have become disciples of the internet. We have come to expect instant answers to all of our questions and go to it as the source of the news whether it is fake or real. We can find just about any kind of entertainment we could want there. Why do we need to go to God when we have all of this at our finger tips? Do I ever stop to ask God if what I’m feeding my mind and spirit is true and helpful for my spiritual and emotional health?

So, what is it that needs to go or be changed in my daily habits to make more room for God and live as a disciple of Jesus? Psalm 139 reminds me that God already knows EVERYTHING about me– what I think and say and do; where and when I go or stay. So, I’ve started to pray 139:23 and 24: “Search me O God and know my heart, test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you and lead me along the path to everlasting life.”

A few of the ways God has shown me are:

- BE STILL and try to eliminate hurry and constant busyness. Accept that I am loved because I’m God’s child and NOT because I accomplish my to do list or

- do something great and wonderful.
- BE INTENTIONAL about how I spend my time
- BE VIGILANT about what I'm taking in through media, books, entertainment, etc. Remember the saying "Garbage in garbage out"?
- BE THANKFUL, stop complaining and trust that everything, even the hard things, can be used for good by God. James 1:2 says "Consider it joy whenever you face trials of many kinds because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. "
- BE STEADFAST by replacing fear with faith. Seek to be a non-anxious presence in this time of conflict and chaos.

Here's a quote from Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis that serves as a good warning. "Prosperity knits a person to the world. One feels they are finding their place in it while in reality it is finding its place in him. Their increasing reputation, widening circle of acquaintances, sense of importance...build up a sense of being really at home in earth which is just what we (the devil and his apprentices) want."

Romans 12:2 reminds us instead. "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world BUT let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think."

~Written by Marilyn Whisner

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