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TOGETHER



A Wasted Life? by Deaniel Yoder

Over the last while I have been reading numerous stories of men and women who have given their lives for the sake of Christ. As I read these stories I was continually challenged and asked myself, “Am I truly living my life for the Lord’s glory, or am I wasting my life? Am I really all that God wants me to be?”

Are you wasting your life? Why do people waste things? There are likely various reasons for why we can be wasteful, but here are two that come to mind. First, when there is no perceived value, a resource is often wasted. We are constantly throwing things away because they are not important to us. Secondly, and related to the first reason, we are often wasteful of things when we have a large supply of it. If we do not have much of a particular resource we are often more careful with how it is used.

Isn’t it the same with life? Too often we see the

time that God has given to us as not that valuable. We would not say it that way, but sadly, our daily lives too often reflect this mentality. How do you guard against wasting your life?

The temptation to go to an extreme on one side or the other always seems to be present. On the one side, we may run to busyness. We become so busy that we fail to invest time in relationship with the Lord. We are so consumed with what is going on in “our world” that we fail to look beyond our all-important schedule and take advantage of the opportunities for ministry that God brings across our path. We have *this* important goal to accomplish and *that* special project to do. We may eventually cross off a few things from our to-do list, but there are always other things waiting to take their place. So on the one side we fill our lives and get busy doing good things.

In the other ditch, the tendency is to fall into

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laziness. This is also a dangerous trap. Motivation is low and we need to be pushed and prodded at every turn to accomplish anything. Days are monotonous, and as long as we survive we feel satisfied. Temptation in many different forms comes our way, luring us away from the only One who can give our lives meaning and purpose.

I am often challenged by the story of the young boy who gave his lunch of five loaves and two fish to Jesus. We may compare that small lunch to the skills or finances that God has given to us, but I think the parallel could also be made to the time God has given. To my shame, the “loaves and fish” (the time) that God has given me does not always feel that important. Sometimes it can seem like since there is so much of it, wasting some here and there will not really hurt anything. However, the truth of the matter is that the time the Lord has given us is incredibly important and very limited.

The young boy did not have to give his lunch to Jesus; he wanted to and chose to give it. What would have happened if he had not given his lunch to Jesus? What would we think about the boy if he had only given one loaf and one fish from his lunch? I am sure he was hungry too! What young

boy is not hungry at lunchtime?

It is easy to read a story and be challenged and blessed, but it is another matter altogether to allow it to change us. Ironically, if I do not think that I have much (loaves and fish) to give to Jesus, it is often hard to give that little away. In fact, if I feel like I have very little to give it can be incredibly difficult to give it away. Why is that? Perhaps it is because it is a matter of the heart, and not the actual gift that is being given.

How does this play out with my time? If I only have a few minutes it is easy to waste them rather than invest them wisely for eternal purposes.

What if the little boy had eaten his lunch and then given the leftovers to Jesus? That would have been much easier to do. There is little sacrifice in giving if you are full. We can be quite generous with our excess. But if the boy had done that, I think we would look at the story quite differently. If I am honest with myself, that is the real temptation. I will gladly give Jesus my afternoon snack as long as I have first eaten my fill of lunch.

I would like to leave you with this question: By

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IGo Second Semester 2019-2020

Back Row: Myron Miller, Kevin Stoltzfus, Delwyn Schrock, Marcus Willey, Michael Stoltzfus, Andrew Duerst, Willy Buck, Byron Miller, Raphael Stoltzfoos, Grant Miller

Middle Row: Gena Miller, Carla Beiler, Kaitlyn Schlabach, Kyra Yoder, Abby Martin, Donovan Yutzy, Dallas Barkman, Brindy Nolt, Lauren Martin, Corissa Miller, Kai Miller

Front Row: Samantha Stoltzfus, Stephanie Stoll, Breanne Jantzi, Cheryl Martin, Alexa Kurtz, Lani Fahnestock, Anya Miller



THE IGo VISION IN ACTION

Mission training continues within the context of the IGo classroom and the harvest fields of Southeast Asia. Institute for Global Opportunities welcomed 24 students to second semester 2019-2020. In addition to the regular semester, two more students who have completed the first-year program are now involved in IGo's second-year internship program. It is through ministry trips, the personal discipleship program, and the classroom training that a foundation is set for students to be more effective Kingdom servants either at home or abroad. Scattered throughout this newsletter you will notice various scenes from the fourth term ministry trips. These trips included living and serving with an Indian family, teaching English and engaging with the children in Myanmar, being touched by the children and their painful stories at a Philippine orphanage, and working alongside a ministry in Nepal. It is the vision of IGo to have the eyes of our students opened to the vast harvest and to hear them echo these words:

"I have but one candle of life to burn, and I would rather burn it out in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light."

J.K. Falconer



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A *Wasted Life?* CONT.

what standard are you using the time God has given you? You may not be tempted to keep your *entire* lunch for yourself, but rather to keep as much of it as you comfortably can.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us give our whole “lunch” to Jesus. He can use our “lunch” much more effectively if we give it all to Him. May we give it all to Him unreservedly, not saving some back for ourselves.



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OUR **MISSION**

The purpose of IGo is to provide students with a cross-cultural setting in which mission work, Biblical teaching and personal discipleship can take place simultaneously.

We believe that it is more beneficial to be training missionaries overseas rather than in the affluent Western setting. IGo provides students with opportunities to travel and minister in Asia, with regular returns to the classroom for teaching and mentoring by instructors. The focus is not solely theoretical; instead it addresses the everyday issues a student experiences in ministry.

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