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Series- Putting Feet to Faith:

Becoming a Matthew 25 Church

Part 8- In Praise of High Energy

Text: Ecclesiastes 9:9-10

The premise of this book, at least at the beginning, is that life is purposeless, futile, empty, pointless. The Preacher argues that life has no meaning unless... you find your calling:

unless... you find your *whatever.* Then decide how you will *do* your whatever. Let’s observe three directives here.

1. Live joyfully
2. Labor joyfully
3. Live energetically- put some umph into all that you do.

What does this have to do with becoming a Matthew 25 church? We run the risk of doing what we do with no energy!

Are you a never married single? Married? Divorced? Separated? Engaged? Whatever your status...

Whatever life has handed you; whatever is on your plate; whatever God has ordained for you; Whatever your, in the words of the text, *portion in life....*

Whatever the case...

 Don’t phone your work in; don’t do it halfway. Do it with all your might. This passage leaves no room for a laid back, chillin’ life. No, this text suggests high energy and doing what we do at a high level. Let’s look at that idea, in the scriptures.

 1 Corinthians 10:31

*Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

 Colossians 3:17, 23.

*17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

*23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not to men (humanity),*

Remember the *shema:* love the Lord with ALL your heart, ALL your soul, ALL your might.

 Jeremiah 48:10a

* *Cursed is he who does the work of the Lord* ***deceitfully****.* (NKJV)
* *Cursed is the one who does the Lord’s work* ***negligently****.* (NASB)
* ***Sloppy work*** *in God’s name is cursed*. (The Message)
* Cursed are they who do the Lord’s work **carelessly**. (New American Bible [Revised Edition])
* A curse on anyone who is **lax in doing the Lord’s work**! (New English Translation)
* Cursed is he who is doing the work of Jehovah **slothfully**, (Young’s Literal Translation)

Samuel to Saul: *Do as the occasion demands-* 1 Samuel 10:7

Q: Why is this talk of energy and passion so important?

A: Because we will all die and in death there is not opportunity of this kind (v.4-6).

The certainty of death *could* lead one to pessimism. Rather than *pessimism*, let *realism* rule the day. I see our inevitable death as a motivating factor. Since we will die, let us NOW redeem the time. Seize the moment, make the best use of our gifts and our time. The fact that life is futile should make me want to leave a *mark*, have an *impact*. To fail to give God our best, most energetic selves is to negate the creative energy which God gives.

Let us serve the people that Jesus called *the least of these,* with *everything* we have. Let’s be all in!!!

**Illus.**

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| There is a tale told of that great English actor Macready. An eminent preacher once said to him: "I wish you would explain to me something." "Well, what is it? I don't know that I can explain anything to a preacher." "What is the reason for the difference between you and me? You are appearing before crowds night after night with fiction, and the crowds come wherever you go. I am preaching the essential and unchangeable truth, and I am not getting any crowd at all." Macready's answer was this: "This is quite simple. I can tell you the difference between us. I present my fiction as though it were truth; you present your truth as though it were fiction." |

**Closing**

Let us present the love and power and forgiveness of Jesus to people as if we have the most compelling true story to tell that has ever been told...because we do!!

Amen