

"In the beginning...CIVILAZATION" 3.7.10

Patrick Morley ≈ author of Man in the Mirror

Make a special investment of time, in those whom will be crying @ your graveside.

Take a moment: attempt to visualize who will be standing at your gravesite, genuinely missing you?

I'm not asking for the faces of good people who will come simply to pay their respects. Picture those sweet faces that will ache because they just miss you. Can you see them? At this moment what kind of time investment are you making in them?

Imagine your time investment like this:

- How would you respond if someone came up to you offering you a bank account so fully stocked, that every day you had to spend \$86, 400?
- You didn't have to do a thing, just spend that much money: every day of every week of every month of every year. What would you do with it?
- Small caveat If you chose not to spend money each day; it will be lost for good.
- 1st thing every morning, you go to automatic teller & w/draw \$86, 400 & use it @ your own discretion!

Back to reality you actually possess something better than money = TIME

Every day we are given 86, 400 golden seconds to use. No matter how we use them, they quickly fade away & TIME can't be recycled!

86, 400 seconds a day. How many of those seconds go to those sweet faces who will ache just because THEY MISS YOU?

I'm unsure but I know without a shadow of a doubt, my family will be there.

(1) of our foundational values @ WRCC is FAMILY

We firmly believe ministry begins in the home!

We firmly believe our families DESERVE the most of seconds of our TIME, because nothing is more important than being apart of a godly family.

The very 1st family that had its fair share of dysfunction. But it also offers insight into what matters most to God as we attempt to lead.

I. Very 1st FAMILY

A. (R) Genesis 4: 1 – 2a or p. 5 in pew Bible

(2) brief observations:

1. 1st ~ pay attention to the prophetic significance of these 2 births.
 - a. With the 1st births in human history Cain & Abel now rests the HOPE of an offspring who will overcome the serpent!
 - b. (R) Genesis 3: 14 – 15
 - c. These births represented the offspring that would someday overcome the serpent. Thought to be one of the descendents of Cain or Able.
2. 2nd ~ Context of Genesis 4 – 5 is unusual in the fact that people lived much, much longer because:

- a. We believe, the earth originally had healthier environmental conditions.
- b. Because there was much more plant life that would result in MUCH more oxygen & less carbon dioxide.

B. (R) Genesis 4: 2b – 7

1. Lot of controversy surrounds why Cain's offering was not accepted:
 - a. Some argue it was because Cain's offering didn't involve a blood sacrifice but rather one from agriculture; Bible doesn't support this idea.
 - b. (R) I John 3: 11 – 13 or p. 942 in pew Bible
 - c. Bible indicates God knew Cain's heart & the wickedness that would ultimately result in the 1st murder in human history.
 - d. re(R) Genesis 4: 6 – 7 Notice God gives Cain a 2nd chance!
2. Remember "The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks @ the heart." I Sam 16:8

Story takes a brutal turn:

C. (R) Genesis 4: 8 – 12

Painful life-lesson

1. Cain's failure to offer his best @ the altar leads to failure in the field.
 - a. Theology & Ethics are never inseparable, who we are in public is 1st formed in who we choose to be in private.
 - b. Our heart is a hard thing to hide from God - - HE SEES!
2. Practically When Cain callously murders his righteous brother Abel, evil seems to triumph. Any HOPES that Cain's descendants would someday crush the serpent were lost in one cruel-selfish act.

Bible now describes parents – guardians, gets real practical

II. (2) Separate Paths = (2) Separate Blood Lines

A. 1st blood line = Cain's descendants

1. (R) Genesis 4: 17 – 24
2. (7) Generations after Cain, Lamech is born man of contradictions
 - a. On (1) hand Lamech was a lecher - - committed bigamy, married (2) women openly violating God's word of monogamy given early on.
 - b. re(R) Genesis 2: 23 - 24
 - c. Lamech was arrogant & brutal; boasted that he would outdo the violence of Cain murderous act by (77) times.

Lamech was full of himself, however...

3. On the other hand, Lamech's (2) wives gave birth to some very talented & gifted children.

- a. Through their amazing gifts civilization began to develop!
 - i. Jabal ~ domesticated animals raising livestock
 - ii. Jubal ~ his family were musicians, specializing in wind & stringed instruments.
 - iii. ½ brother Tubal-Cain, he & his people had left the Stone Age behind them, they forged all kinds of tools out of bronze & iron.
- b. There was rapid developments in technology, construction, farming, music, science, were rapidly developing.
- c. Keep in perspective if you had 800 yrs to work on something, you & I would probably make progress, no matter how weak our work ethics are.

If you scratch the surface on those days, you might conclude that humanity was doing quite well = they were a COMPLEX culture w/a love for the arts & music.

Truthfully these people were overtly evil; for all their merit worthy achievements, **(1)** thing was missing = no mention of God-no intimacy with the Creator ☹

Good & descent people + successful people advancing culture
BUT godless ~ sounds like 2010!

- B. 2nd blood line = Seth's descendants
 1. HOPE (re) Instated through Seth's blood line; Seth's birth to replace Able offers a renewed hope, rekindles the HOPE of overcoming the serpent!
 2. DON'T MISS what separates Cain's line from Seth's descendants:
 - a. It was their approach to God, instead of casually ignoring God in everyday life & matters; these godly children began...
 - b. re(R) Genesis 4: 26b "...1st began to worship the Lord by name!"

The most important TIME INVESTMENT you can make in your family, giving them an authentic love for God & His precious Son, Jesus!

Godliness is caught, not taught! It's hard being a parent- -guardian- -caregiver!

Sobering reality =

1/3 of all girls in the U.S. will get pregnant in their teen yrs; More than 2/3 will not graduate from high school. Teen violence is on the rise: An average of (15) young people are killed each day in the U.S. and 80% are violent deaths.

Our children + Our families are @ RISK

Here's some concrete ideas of how to spend your 86,400 seconds per day

III. TIME INVESTMENT

- A. 1st idea = Practice what I Preach

After the baby dedication, much like the (1) _____, (1) of the child's older siblings was sobbing in the back seat of the car~ all the way home.
His dad asked him (3) times what was wrong. Finally he spoke up & answered,

“Preacher said today he wanted us brought up in a Christian home,
& I wanted to stay with you guys.” ☺

1. Practice godliness in your homes make it real practical

2. This is what godly loves looks like inside the home:

- L = Listening to one another’s ♥’s seeking to understand one another w/out the need to interrupt the one trying to be understood.
- O = Offering - a willingness to sacrifice one’s own preferences for the common good of others.
- V = Valuing your family above your other personal interest such as: Job / entertainment / & even your individual ministries. Family is our primary ministry!
- E = Enduring – a commitment to endure long after the feelings of infatuation has worn away...No back doors in Christian marriage!

B. 2nd idea = Treat my Bible like my cell phone

INSERT What if we treated our Bible like our cell phone?

C. 3rd idea = Keep the main thing the MAIN THING

INSERT quote from James Dobson’s book called Final Rounds

Get personal:

- I don’t know about your 86,400 seconds per day; mine are evaporating quicker these days; my life is moving so quickly = HAUNTINGLY FAST
 - It’s time for me to slow down & remember those sweet faces that will JUST MISS ME - not the pastor, not the Bible teacher, not the crazy man w/the green lawn
 - How about you?

Can’t leave you until I make this REAL CLEAR: it’s one thing for your loved ones to cry over missing JUST you, its another for their tears to be filled w/fear!