

DISCUSSIONNOTES

1.26.20



Begin by reading **Ecclesiastes 4:4**. Jamie said it is crucial the appetite for importance be controlled. In the next verse we see Solomon also warn about laziness. So, he's not suggesting we be complacent either and just do nothing. What do you think is the healthy balance here?

What is the difference between worldly success and spiritual significance? Jamie said it's not only balance but going after the right kind of success. It first begins with motivation. The prime motive for worldly success is to impress people. Read **Ecclesiastes 4:4** again and **John 12:42-43**. Who are you trying to impress and why? Explain.

The prime motive for spiritual significance is to please God. Read **Ecclesiastes 12:13**. *"A godly person wants to please God more than impress people."* What can you do to set your mindset to realizing it is not people you work or serve, but God? Discuss.

Jamie thinks you can list the world's standards for success in four words. Affluence, appearance, achievement, and authority. The standards for spiritual significance are very different. God values generosity, character, service, and loving relationships. Read **2 Corinthians 6:10**, **1 Samuel 16:7**, **Matthew 5:8**, **Matthew 23:11-12** and **Ecclesiastes 4:7-12**. Discuss the differences you see between the world, and what God values. How did you see the difference with the verses added in? What do these verses show you? How can you see the correlation back then with what is happening today? Discuss.

Jamie said, *"Are you really a success if you're rich but your family is alienated from you? Are you really a success if you are attractive but people are intimidated by you and no one is close to you? Are you really a success if you have people taking orders from you but nobody loves you? All through the Bible we're told, "Value people. Quit being so concerned about people's opinion of you. Just love and serve people."* Read **1 John 4:10-11**. What can you do to have this approach in your own life? What is your biggest difficulty in living this way? Explain.

Read **Philippians 4:11-13**. *"What's your life? Are you living for a title or are you living for a testimony? Are you living for success or are you living for significance?"* Read **Ephesians 2:8-9**. Success is going to Heaven. Close by praying for God to open you eyes to One person today who needs God's love, and to give you the courage to share it.