

“What Matters Most”
1 Corinthians 7:25-32a
Fractured: How God Restores a Broken Church
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You have 24 hours. You know with absolute certainty that Jesus is returning 24 hours from now.

Two questions:

1. What would you do differently? _____
2. Why does this knowledge about Jesus coming back change what matters the most? _____

One more question. Are you living your life around what matters most? Yes/No/Somewhat/Not Sure

Circle the real-world scenario(s) that you can relate to: The overtime worker, the outdoor sports family, the retirement countdown, the lake-up-north lifestyle, the pursuit of life in “the burbs,” the relationship obsession, the marriage-and-family bubble, the career climber, being financially anxious, building a comfortable life...

At this point, it would be advantageous to revisit the last question and consider changing your answer.

What happens when we build our lives around things that won’t last? Things that _____ matter most?

- ANXIETY - We struggle with anxiety because we’re afraid of losing things that don’t matter. (Mt 6:31–33)
- DISSATISFACTION - We never feel like we have enough. We have an insatiable desire for *more* and there’s no relief. (Eccl 5:10)
- SELFISHNESS - Jesus gets the leftovers of our time, treasure, and talents. (Mt 6:33)
- NEGATIVE INFLUENCE - We influence - through our calendar and our money - our children to value things that ultimately don’t matter. (Deut 6:6–7)
- MISSED OPPORTUNITIES - We miss opportunities. People we could have introduced to Jesus, served, and discipleship move through our lives while we’re preoccupied with things that don’t matter. (Col 4:5)
- A WASTED LIFE - We can reach the end of life accomplishing and accumulating much while having invested very little in eternity. (Lk 12:20–21)

Let’s not get it twisted!



Marriage matters. Family matters. Work matters. Money matters. Enjoying life matters. *But none of them lasts forever.* So how do we live in a temporary world without wasting our lives on temporary things? The “textbook answer” is found in our main passage.

TURN OVER

1 Corinthians 7:25-32a

1. **VV 26-28...** Your _____ don't need to change in order to start living for what matters most.
 - *It is good for you to remain where you are (as long as it's God-honoring). (Col 3:23-24)*
2. **VV 29-31...** Hold temporary things loosely. Guard your heart against loving temporary things _____.
 - *A good thing becomes an idol when it becomes an ultimate thing. (Mt 6:19-21; 1 Jn 2:15-17)*
3. **VV 31-32a...** Build your life around what will last _____. (2 Cor 4:17-18; 1 Cor 15:58)
 - *By doing so, you are living with an eternal perspective.*

HOW TO LIVE FOR WHAT MATTERS MOST... FOR WHAT LASTS FOREVER

- **LIVE FOR JESUS.** Make knowing, loving, obeying, and becoming like Jesus your life mission. (Mt 6:33; Phil 3:8)
- **INVEST IN PEOPLE.** Possessions won't last and people matter eternally. Love them, forgive them, encourage them, serve them, and help them know Jesus. (Mt 22:39; 1 Thes 2:8)
- **BUILD GOD'S KINGDOM.** Give your time, treasure, and talents to what God is doing through His Church. Serve somewhere. (Mt 6:19–20; 1 Pe 4:10)
- **SHARE JESUS.** Pray for and share the gospel with people. Your R.O.I. will last for eternity. (Mt 28:19–20)
- **GIVE GENEROUSLY.** Instead of merely accumulating more temporary possessions, use what God has entrusted to you to accomplish eternal purposes. (1 Ti 6:17–19)
- **MAKE DISCIPLES.** Don't merely follow Jesus yourself—help somebody else follow Him. (Mt 28:19–20; 2 Ti 2:2)
- **USE YOUR TIME INTENTIONALLY.** Your time on earth is limited. Regularly ask, “In the light of eternity, is what I'm giving my life to worth it?” (Eph 5:15–16)
- **HOLD EVERYTHING ELSE LOOSELY.** Enjoy your marriage, family, home, career, possessions, recreation, and everything God has given you—but never confuse God's gifts with God Himself. (1 Cor 7:29–31)

Let's close with a challenge: Look at your calendar and your bank statement. Look at what occupies your thoughts. Do they reveal that you're living primarily for what is temporary—or for what is eternal?

Enjoy what is temporary. Invest your life in what is eternal.

GOING DEEPER

1. What temporary thing most competes for your heart? _____
2. What does your calendar reveal about what matters most? _____
3. What does your spending reveal about what matters most? _____
4. What would you change if Jesus returned tomorrow? _____
5. What is one eternal investment you can make this week? _____