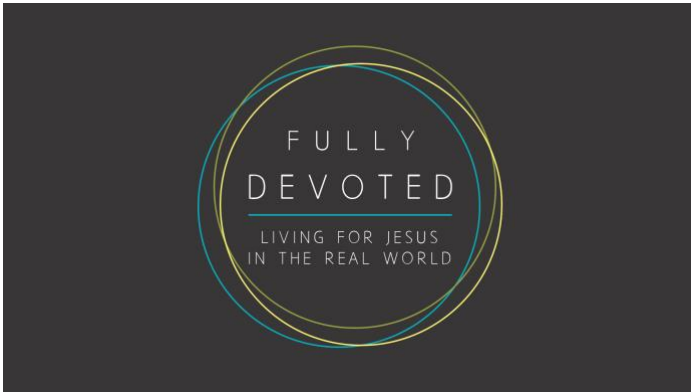


TAKE HOME SHEET



Series: Fully Devoted
Message: Accurately Measuring Success
Speaker: Rusty Coram
Date: June 16, 2024

Think about the ads, commercials, and conversations you hear. What does the world around you say true success looks like?

Being honest, how do you measure success? What things are you working towards or pursuing to have success in your life?

Now imagine you are sitting at a table with Jesus and ask Him, “Jesus, what do you think I should be doing to pursue success in my life?” List out a few things you think He might say:

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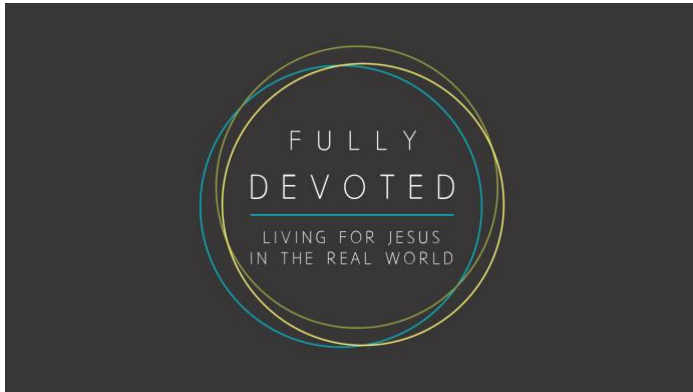
Look back over the message notes and prayerfully look for one or two things you can begin to focus on today to better align your pursuit of success with God’s.

What have you landed on?

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS:

NLT – New Living Translation
TLB – The Living Bible

MESSAGE NOTES



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Four Benefits of Trials and Tests:

1. To reveal the condition of my faith.
2. To refine my faith.
3. To develop my faith.
4. To display my faith and bring God honor.

success (def): Achieving the results wanted or hoped for. (Oxford Dictionary)

The question then is **“What do I want?”**

What will happen to those who measure success by wealth, influence, and power.

¹³ Look here, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit.” ¹⁴ How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow?

Your life is like the morning fog—it’s here a little while, then it’s gone. ¹⁵ What you ought to say is, “If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that.”

¹⁶ Otherwise you are boasting about your own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil.

¹⁷ Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.

James 4:13–17 (NLT)

¹ Look here, you rich people: Weep and groan with anguish because of all the terrible troubles ahead of you. ² Your wealth is rotting away, and your fine clothes are moth-eaten rags. ³ Your gold and silver have become worthless. The very wealth you were counting on will eat away your flesh like fire. This treasure you have accumulated will stand as evidence against you on the day of judgment. ⁴ For listen! Hear the cries of the field workers whom you have cheated of their pay. The wages you held back cry out against you. The cries of those who harvest your fields have reached the ears of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. ⁵ You have spent your years on earth in luxury, satisfying your every desire. You have fattened yourselves for the day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned and killed innocent people, who do not resist you.

James 5:1-6 (NLT)

There is nothing wrong with having wealth. There is much wrong when wealth (and my quest for it) has me.

⁷ O God, I beg two favors from you; let me have them before I die. ⁸ First, help me never to tell a lie. Second, give me neither poverty nor riches! Give me just enough to satisfy my needs. ⁹ For if I grow rich, I may deny you and say, “Who is the LORD?” And if I am too poor, I may steal and thus insult God’s holy name.

Proverbs 30:7-9 (NLT)

Jesus tells us God’s standard for measuring success...

³⁷ Jesus replied, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.”

³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.

Matthew 22:37-40 (NLT)

Simply put, this boils down to obeying God and serving others.

A key reason God instructs all of us to “tithe” is to protect us from the temptation to measure success by wealth.

The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives.

Deuteronomy 14:23 (TLB)

Some simple ways to adjust my life to align with God’s view of success: