

Marriage



MARRIAGE PART 15 - THE MISSIONAL TEST

In part 14 we discussed "The Relational Test." Part 15 is all about "The Missional Test" - who or what do we live for?

We are never to separate these two tests. It's not about one or the other but about both, while there is a heavenly order to which they flow. You could say it's one test with two parts to it.

Let's look at "The Missional Test" - who or what do we live for?

Matthew 10:38-39 "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it."

We will all live for someone or something? Who or what is it we are living for?

Is it ourselves?
Is it for another?
Is it for our career?
Is it for our purposes and dreams?
Is it for our sport?
Is it to make money?
Is it to be famous?

2 Corinthians 6:11-12 "Our mouth has spoken freely to you, O Corinthians, our heart is opened wide. You are not restrained by us, but you are restrained in your own affections."

Who or what we live for will determine where we will be found. What or who we live for will determine, define and delegate where our time, energy, devotion and resource is given to.

Q. Are we restrained by Him or others, or are we in fact restrained by our own affections?

Jesus says he who does not take up his own cross and follow Him, His Way, His purpose, His plan, is not worthy of Him. This is extremely confronting and challenges the very essence of who holds centre stage in our hearts.

Only those who have lost their lives for His sake through the crucifixion of the spirit of self, are the followers who truly find their predestined lives in Christ and start living for the Father's Will defined by the Father.

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We are all to be living for the Father's eternal plan, doing the 'will of God', which isn't an individual purpose, but something the entire body of Christ is looking to fulfil.

Matthew 7:21 is very clear in what it says.

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter."

The missional test of being made as a disciple and becoming like the Master, is to be every followers singular pursuit. It is from this position that we enter into the discipleship making process of others, where not only we, but other disciples are living for the will of God.

The parable of the talents is another example of "The Missional Test." God gives three followers different measures of talents in relation to their gracing and then looks to see what they each do with it. We see two followers use the talents well, producing more, while one buries theirs in the ground, due to fear of the Master.

Burying it in the ground is no different to using it for the glory of self. Both are not glorifying the Father and be sown in a way that does the Father's will. The Scriptures say this servant is thrown into the outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

We see there are consequences in the parable of the ten virgins for not being ready as the bride, where we loved Christ with all we were and we see consequences for not living for Him and using what He has given us to bring glory to Him.

Only followers who overcome these tests and live in accordance to God's truth will be rewarded at the judgement seat of Christ.

QUESTIONS

1. Why does God put this test in place for His people?
2. Why is the losing and finding of one's life so critical in this, who or what we are living for truth?
3. How does not living for the Father's will on earth determine the life we can know now and in the age to come?
4. What is the Father's will?

Watch the accompanying You Tube videos here: https://youtu.be/3KOUQuP_y2I