



TOPIC Reordering Our Lives

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THEME Share The Gospel

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The year-end period is a good time to take stock of our life. In this sermon, Elder Lok shares practical life hacks for reviewing and reordering our lives. We start at the dwelling place of the Lord so as to remember that it is about pleasing Him.

GIVING CAREFUL THOUGHT TO OUR WAYS

PUTTING FIRST THINGS FIRST (Hag 1:1-14)

We are often distracted from getting the important things (as determined by God) done first in our lives. Despite being the faithful remnant, the children of God made excuses (v.2), tended first to self (v.4) and stayed comfortable with status quo (v.9b).

Possible consequences of not getting our priorities correct (v.6, 9) include:

- futility – efforts amounting to nothing
- un-satisfaction – opposite of “godly contentment” in 1 Tim 6:6 when we don’t *feel* our need has been met despite having it met
- missing God's blessings – because our hands are too full with our own

God will take care of our house and us, when we take care of His house and His priorities.

WASTING & PLEASING (Matt 26:6-13)

Mary brought a lavish and extravagant gift fit for a king – an alabaster vial of pure nard that amounted to a year’s wages – and used it to anoint the Lord, to the disciples’ indignation. Similarly, King David gave extravagant worship to the Lord that disregarded what others think. While it may appear a wasteful use of money/resources by the world’s standard, it pleased the Lord who considered it a good deed (v.10b, 13).

The value of the Lord *to us* is revealed in whether we do the things that please Him *above* the things that are of value and useful.

BE THOU MY VISION (Hymn)

This well-known hymn is particularly poignant as it was written by an Irish monk believed to have become blind. **When the Lord is our vision, He becomes our everything, and not riches nor the praises of man.**

Conclusion

Let us not be careless about the year that is passing, but give thought to how we can in the new year:

1. Restore our consciousness of God's presence (Hag 1:13)
2. Renew our experience of His power (Hag 1:14)
3. Please our Lord by putting Him first (Matt 26:10)

We first begin by putting the "big rocks" or important things into our jar of life, then we would have space for more – including the little things – and not waste a(nother) year of our lives!

QUESTIONS

1. What are the first/big things in our personal life at this present moment?

2. What are some things you value that you find difficult to offer up to God? Why is it important to give careful thought to our ways?

3. Ask God to cast a vision for you in the new year, specifically asking Him what He is directing you to put first in your life.