

“SEEDS OF YOUR FUTURE”

Luke 4:16

In successful people we often examine their lives for clues to their success. Our scrip: Speaks of Jesus' habits.

I. THE SEEDS OF YOUR FUTURE

A. A mistake is often made about destiny & greatness

1. We think some men decided to be great – and made some huge/heroic effort that brought destiny
 - a. *We focus on David fighting Goliath...*
 - b. *We think that we will pray great prayer/great act of service...*
2. You can't decide your future – you can only decide your habits
 - a. *A habit is any action, conduct or behavior that you do over and over again.*
 1. *It may be a bad habit like smoking, or a good habit like brushing your teeth.*
 - b. *Luke 4:16 and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.*
 1. *Something He had been doing for years!*

B. There is a law at work in life: The law of eventuality

1. The decisions you make regularly/daily will eventually take you somewhere!
 - a. *If you smoke 3 packs of cigarettes a day, what is the inevitable eventuality?*
 - b. *If you eat two slices of pecan pie late every night, what is the inevitable eventuality?*

C. The secret of your future is hidden in your daily routine

1. Great men simply have great habits

a. Larry Bird: Would shoot 500 free throws before breakfast b. A billionaire: "I arrive at my office at 7:00 a.m. It is habit." A best-selling novelist who has sold over one million books said, "I get up at the same time every morning. I start writing at 8:00 a.m. and I quit at 4:00 each afternoon. I do it every day. It is habit."

2. This is especially true spiritually

a. Daniel prayed 3x a day: even his enemies knew it!

1. Daniel 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.

a. When he was stressed/feeling bad – he still did what was his habit!

b. Jesus stayed busy: He traveled/prayed for the sick/taught and ministered/supervised His disciples. He spoke to large crowds. However, he had an important custom and habit.

II. DANGEROUS HABITS

A. Danger of destructive habits

1. Most men have areas of their lives that are working against their future
 - a. *Actions that hinder/harm their future: 1. Eating fatty foods with a heart condition 2. Sin/habits of carnality*
 2. Men going nowhere/backward: Choose for today what is convenient/feels good instead of their future
- B. Danger of passivity: Men who fail to make good decisions that will take them toward their desired destiny**
1. **Laziness: Proverbs 24:33-34** *You sleep a little; you take a nap. You fold your hands and lie down to rest. Soon you will be as poor as if you had been robbed; you will have as little as if you had been held up.*
 - a. *Small men do good things occasionally*
 2. **Magic thinking:** Destiny will somehow happen – without us doing anything

III. DETERMINING YOUR FUTURE

A. Decide your destination: Make up you mind of where you want to be next year/in 5 years – in life!

1. Deuteronomy 30:19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

2. The key question: What will it take to get there? What daily steps will bring you closer to the destiny you want?

B. Confront your destructive habits

1. You have to treat any habit that hinders/takes you farther away should be treated as an enemy
 - a. *Colossians 3:5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.*

C. Develop good habits

1. Start now: Don't delay 2. Start small: 3. Keep doing it:
 - a. *Experts say that when you do a specific thing repeatedly for 21 consecutive days, it will become a lifetime habit for you.*
4. We make a transition in habits: Discipline is forcing yourself to do something
 - a. *But something changes: It becomes normal! No longer an unenjoyable struggle*