



Finishing Well

June 28, 2009

Finishing Well:

- 2 Timothy 4:6-8, “For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.” (Maxwell)



Finishing Well:

- Why is it so difficult to finish well? Why do so few run across the tape?
 - The longer you live, the more evil you see. (grandparents life time)
 - Many lose their purpose in life (e.g., vacation)
 - Many stop growing along the way.
 - Many lose their passion.
- How do you finish well?



Finishing Well:

- **First, to finish well choose faith over fear.**
The Gospel of the Kingdom that Jesus preached is the single most life-changing, hope-giving message ever delivered to human ears. Mark 1:15, *“The time has come. The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”*
- The Kingdom has come (gates/fortress). We have much to be optimistic about. Fear is faith in the devil. (Bethel – 20’s)

Finishing Well:

- **Second, if we are going to finish well, we need to keep growing.** Paul ran across the tape, and he wanted Timothy to finish well, too. “But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.” (2 Timothy 4:5) (Dr. Rambo)
- Keep growing in your relationship with Jesus. Keep growing in your love for God and people. Keep reading, learning, experiencing.



Finishing Well:

- **Third, if we are going to finish well we need to process our hurts and disappointments in life.** You will get hurt along the journey. You will get disappointed. You must process those, or you will not finish well.



Finishing Well:

- Luke 6:27-36, “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you... love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”
- If we don't process our hurts graciously, we will become a bitter old person.

Finishing Well:

- **Third, if we are going to finish well we need to process our hurts and disappointments in life.**
- Determine to hold no grudges, nurse no wounds, nurture no disappointments, hang on to no resentments. Process your hurts and disappointments at all costs. (Lincoln)



Finishing Well:

- **Mother Teresa**
- People are illogical, unreasonable & self-centered . . . Love them anyway.
- If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives . . . Do good anyway.
- If you are successful, you will win false friends & true enemies. . . Succeed anyway.
- The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow . . . Do good anyway.

Finishing Well:

- Honesty and frankness will make you vulnerable . . . Be honest and frank anyway.
- The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest minds . . . Think big anyway.
- People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs . . . Fight for a few underdogs anyway.
- What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight . . . Build it anyway.



Finishing Well:

- People really need help but may attack if you do help them . . . Help them anyway.
- Give the world the best you have and you may get kicked in the teeth . . . Give the world the best you have anyway.
- If you want to finish well, you must process your hurts and disappointments in life.
(Nursing Home)

