

One month to Live #1 – Living in the moment.

We are going to examine how our lives would be different if we recognized the truth that our time is very limited.

A couple went to see the doctor and the doctor checked the guy out and saw that he had some very serious problems and the doctor told him, *“Let me I talk to your wife for a moment.”*

So the guy stepped out of the room and the doctor told her, *“Your husband has a very serious disease, but the good news is it is treatable, but here's what you need to do. You'll have to feed him three home cooked meals a day and you'll have to prepare them in just the exact right way and you'll have to be intimate with him at least one time every day.”*

“If you do this for the next six months, this will cure his disease and he will live a long, healthy and productive life,” and she said, *“Do you mind if I talk to my husband for just a moment.”* So she went to where her husband was and told him, *“Honey, the doctor said you're going to die.”*

But the truth of the matter is that unless Jesus returns in our lifetime, all of us are going to die.

I'm scheduled to die Sunday, Feb 17, 2013. You may wonder how I know that. I found the death clock on the internet and this death clock asked me the day and the year I was born, how much I weigh, do I smoke, etc,. This is if I have a “normal” outlook on life, if I have an “optimistic” outlook I live another 16 years until 2029. That's me Mr. Optimistic.

The truth is I could live longer or I could live much shorter. I could die today when I pull out of the parking lot. I could be hit by a car and it's game over. I could have cancer and not know it and die six months from now. I could have a heart attack when I get so worked up preaching that I just drop dead. Who knows.

The possibilities are endless. The truth is, all of us, if we are honest, would recognize just how brief life really is. The big question of this series is: **How would your life be different if you only had one month to live?**

Psalm 39:4-5, *“LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered, and that my life is fleeing away. My life is no longer than the width of my hand. An entire lifetime is just a moment to you; human existence is but a breath.”* NLT

Your life is incredibly brief. You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

[Video]

Let's look at three points, James 4:13-17, "Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins."

1. Thought number 1, We are going to ask God to **turn "when" into "now."** If you are anything like me you spend much of your life literally wishing life away. We say when such and such happens, then life will really matter.

One day **when** everything is just the way I want it to be, **then** I can fully engage and do what God is calling me to do. I don't know how it will play out for you, but I've talked to a lot of people through the years with different **"when-thens."**

It may be a person who says, "One day **when** I get married, **then** I'll finally be happy." It may be the person that says "One day **when** we get the right home, **then** we'll host a Growth Group."

One day **when** we finally get out of debt, **then** we'll start to tithe. One day **when** my career is established and we are strong financially **then** I'll reengage with the family. One day **when** the kids are grown, **then** we'll start investing in our marriage again.

The problem is the "then" rarely comes. I don't know what your **"when-then"** is but we're going to ask God to turn the **"then"** into **"now."** Why? Because in case you haven't noticed life is brief. It is flying by.

I remember yesterday, I was 17 years old and in high school waiting for the bell to ring and I blinked and I was 20 standing in a church in Portland Oregon getting married and I blinked and I was 30 and Barbara and I went to Europe. And I blinked and I was 40 and Barb and I were empty nesters and Oregon was starting to enter a down turn. And I blinked and I was 50 living in Alaska taking advantage of the hunting and fishing. And I blinked and I was 60 and I was a pastor at Faith Christian Community. And I blinked again and I was past 70 standing up here speaking to you.

Life is brief. We're going to ask God to help us turn the “whens” into “nows.” I have found that a person can be so goal oriented and so driven and so focused that they're missing life in the moment.

You're thinking about the next project, the next goal, the next thing that you're going to accomplish and you forget to live right now. Maybe this is God's assignment for you. **No matter where you are**, if you're with your wife, if you're with your husband, if you're with your kids, if you're with a friend, if you're with people at work, no matter where you are **make sure that you are all there.**

When you are with your children, you're not off in your mind, solving a problem at work but you are all there at that moment, fully engaged. If you're with your spouse, you're not off thinking about the game on TV, you're all there. Every bit of you, fully engaged.

If you're talking to somebody at work or engaged in a conversation you are with them. You connect with them. They are important to you. You hear their heart. Wherever you are, be all there. Turn the “whens” into the “nows.” Start living because if you don't life will be gone.

Psalm 118:24, *“This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”* Embrace the moment. Wherever you are, be all there. This is the day the lord has made, Let God turn the “whens” into “nows”.

Proverbs 27:1, *“Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.”* Thought number 1: We're going to ask God to turn “when” into “now.”

2. We're going to **ask God to turn our intentions into actions.** Because, if you're like most people, you have some seriously good intentions about life but like most people, you probably haven't gotten around to doing them yet.

James 4:17, *“Anyone who knows the good and doesn't do it sins.”* If you have ever traveled around London you have been on “the tube.” It's an underground subway. These things really go. You zoom from one station to the next.

And when you arrive at the station the doors open and a recorded female voice comes on and says, **“Mind the gap.”** (The gap that is between the subway car and the platform.) If you don't you are going to have a really bad day.

Today, instead of minding the gap we're going to ask God to **close** the gap. **Close** the gap between good intentions and right and Godly actions. Close the gap.

What are your good intentions that God wants you to do **but you haven't done yet?** Think about it. Maybe God wants you to reach out to someone who doesn't know Christ but you just haven't yet.

Maybe God wants you to connect with someone, to appreciate them, to express your love for them, to encourage them, to say thank you to someone who made a difference in your life, but you just haven't done it yet.

What good intentions do you have that you haven't followed through on?

Maybe God wants you to go on a mission trip, to serve someone sacrificially in the name of Jesus. Maybe God wants you to use your gifts at your church or to start tithing faithfully but you just haven't done it yet.

Maybe God wants you to connect intimately with your spouse or to reach out to one of your children. Maybe there's someone that hurt you and God wants you to **forgive** them, or, maybe there's someone you've hurt and God wants you to **apologize**. What good intentions do you have that you have not yet acted on?

Years ago I had a woman sitting in my office with tears streaming down her face. Her and her father had a falling out and they hadn't talked in a while. She had been convicted for a time to patch up the problem and to let him know she loved him. But then her father had died suddenly.

Close the gap because life is brief. Close the gap between intentions and actions. **She had good intentions** and wished she had followed through. There have been times when a son or daughter were rushing to the hospital, maybe from out of state, because they desperately wanted to say something to their mom or dad before it was too late. But they didn't make it.

And they ache because they wanted to say something and they never did. **Good intentions, no follow through.** We have no idea what profound thing God might do when we do what He puts on our heart. Be obedient to what He calls you. Never let the good go undone. Do it now. Today. Before the sun goes down.

Proverbs 3:27, *"Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, "Come back later; I'll give it tomorrow" — when you now have it with you."* Do it now.

Too many people are turning just a portion of their life toward Jesus. I try to get a flu shot every year. When I go in, the doctor gives me a shot and what does that give me, a little bit of the flu. Just a bit. Just enough to make me resistant to the real thing.

And today, in many churches we have people, who've gotten a little bit of Jesus. Just a little bit. **Just enough to make them resistant to the real thing.**

And when that happens basically we do this: We pursue whatever we want and every now and then we give Jesus a little wave. *“Oh yeah, we’ll take a little Jesus shot here, I’ll give a little bit in return. I go to church, I might give You an hour and hey look at me Jesus, I’m in church and I even put some money in the basket. I got a little bit of Jesus. I got my WWJD thing on. I might even have my name on my bible.”*

I have a little bit of Jesus. Hey, every now and then I stop to watch a little Christian TV. Every now and then when things get tough, I'll pray. “Hey, help me Jesus.”

Going through life, every thing's okay. I have a little bit of Jesus. **Just enough to keep me from really knowing Him.** Life is brief. A hand's width. You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

And that's why right now, there is nothing better that you could do with this moment than to say, *“Jesus, I don't want to be away from you, I don't want to do my own thing, I don't want to live with this sin that is destroying me, I want to know you, your truth, your power, your love, your grace, your mercy. Jesus I want to turn my whole heart to you. Not just a little bit, but all of me.”*

3. And that brings us to the third thought: **I need to turn my whole heart toward Jesus.**

In Mark 12 Jesus was asked, “What's the most important commandment” and Jesus said, *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your mind and all your soul and all your strength and the second is like it, he said, love your neighbor as yourself.”*

And the fellow agreed but then Jesus told him *“You are not far from the kingdom of God.”* **You're close but you're not there yet** and honestly, that's one of my fears for many of you is that you're not far from the kingdom of God.

Sure you're in church, sure you understand some things about Jesus, you're close but you're not really there. You're not far. But you don't know the glory, the power, the truth, the majesty of who Jesus really is. You don't know it personally.

You're close but you're not there. You're not far from the kingdom of God. You have a little bit of Jesus but not all of Him. That's why you need to turn “**when**” into “**now**.” That's why you need to turn intentions into actions. That's why you need to turn your whole heart to Jesus and you need to do it now.

[Video] You need to live in the moment now. You need to enjoy yourself and the people that you're with **now**. Don't wait.

If you were honest would you recognize that in many ways you are not really living life right now? That you are doing the “**when-then**” game. **When** something happens, **then** I'll do this and life is passing you by.

Or maybe you have really good intentions, things that you've planned on doing but you haven't done them yet and right now the spirit of God is convicting you. If that is you, you need to turn the “**when**” into “**now**” and turn good intentions into actions and start living fully in the moment wherever you are.

Prayer - Heavenly father, remind us how brief our time on earth will be. Help us to understand that every moment counts. Forgive us for wishing our lives away and thinking when something happens then we will live. Help us to turn the “then” into “now.” To understand that this is our day that you gave us and we will be glad and we will rejoice in it and Lord, by Your power today, help us to turn our good intentions into actions. Help us to close the gap and to do the good that You put in front of us. Convict us, show us who to reach out to, what to do, what to say, where to go, when to do it. Lord, I pray that we would get to the end of this life and have no regrets. That we did everything you put in front of us - remind us how brief our time on earth is.

A lot of us, if we were really honest, would admit, “I've only have a little bit of Jesus in my life. I go to church once in a while and I know a little bit of the story, I have a little bit of God in my life.”

“Every now and then when I need him I might pray to Him.” **But** you recognize that your heart is far from God. **But like she said in the video**, you will need Him and you will. Either in this life or in the one to come, you will need Him and you won't need a little bit of Him, you will need all of Him.

Not just a little nod there, but a fully surrendered life to Jesus. Not just a little bit of you, but all of you. Be the savior and the lord of my life. Forgive me for the sin. Forgive me for wasting the previous years. Forgive me for my selfishness. And *for you. Change me forever.* “

Are they those of you, who are willing to step across the spiritual line? You will never be the same and you need to say, “*Jesus take all of me, every bit, my heart, my mind, my will, my emotions, my past, my present, my future, Jesus be the Lord of my life.*” This is what God wants. This is your moment, say yes to Jesus.