TITLE: What’s It All About?

TEXT: Mt. 6:26-33; Job 1:1, 6-12, 20-22, 2:3-10,

19:25-27; 2nd Co. 11:23-28 & 12: 7-10; Gal. 2:20;

Mt. 28:18-20

INTRODUCTION: Have you ever asked yourself the question, what’s it all about?

One of the oldest and most important questions that man has ever asked is: What’s it all about?

 What is life all about?

 This morning I would like to attempt to answer that age-old question.. I can answer it with four words, which if you grasp them, may very well be the four most important words that you will ever hear as a Christian! Four words that have the potential to literally change your life!

 Are you ready to hear those four words, four words that can literally change your life, four words, that if you grasp them, will possibly be the most liberating words, freeing words, that you will ever hear as a Christian!

 “IT’S NOT ABOUT YOU”!

It’s not about you! Say that with me but personalize it this morning! IT’S NOT ABOUT ME!

 This is the answer, or at least the biggest part of the answer to life’s toughest question; what is life all about? It’s not about me!

 This may very well be one of the most prominent themes throughout the pages of Scripture! It’s not about me!

Jesus says:

Matt 6:25 (NIV) "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?

 What truth is Jesus trying to reveal to us here when He says: do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?

 What is Jesus really saying here?

 He is saying, It’s not about you!

Is not life more important than (your) food, and the body more important than (your) clothes?

Jesus goes on…

Matt 6:26 (NIV) Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

**27 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?**

**28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.**

**29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.**

**30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?**

**31 So do not worry, saying, `What shall we eat?' or `What shall we drink?' or `What shall we wear?'**

32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

**33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**

 Jesus doesn’t give us an all-inclusive list of the things that we worry about in this life, the things that preoccupy our minds and our efforts, things that often become our primary focus and concern in this life when He says; Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?

 What He does is uses two categories of things, food and clothes, from which many other things fall under..

 Food is what? It is provision for our body.

 Clothes are what? They are adornment for our body.

 When Jesus says, isn’t life more important than food and the body more important than clothes, He was telling us what life is not all about.

 He was saying, life isn’t about you! It is not about your wants and needs! It is not about your desires and comfort!

 It isn’t about what you put into your body and it is not about what you put on your body.

 Life is not about your provision or your prosperity.

 These things are not to be the essentials of your life but they are to be the incidentals of your life.

 What does Jesus then go on to say what is to be the essential thing in our lives? What our life is really to be all about?

 **33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**

Here we are given the answer to one of life’s most difficult questions. What is life all about? Well, it isn’t about you! It isn’t about me! It is about God! It is about His Kingdom! It is about His purposes and His plans, not our own.

 Let me ask you a question this morning… What is your life all about? What is it that consumes your thoughts and your efforts in any given day? What do you spend your time doing?

 What is it that bums you out? Brings you down? Makes you angry? Depresses you?

 Don’t have enough money to get what you want out of life?

 Not satisfied with how you look, I’m too tall or too short or too thin or too heavy, never have the right clothes?

 Get angry with others who wrong you? Have people in your life that bring you down and make you unhappy?

 Feel that your husband of wife doesn’t pay enough attention to you or treat you like you feel that you should be treated?

Not satisfied with your life? Feel like everyone is against you? That God hasn’t dealt you a fair hand in life?

 If we are a Christian and ever feel like this, then Scripture, I believe, has this admonition for us.. GET OVER IT! MOVE ON!

 CAUSE IT AIN’T ABOUT YOU! IT’S ABOUT ME! IT’S ABOUT MY KINGDOM! IT’S ABOUT MY PURPOSE’S AND MY PLANS—NOT YOURS!

**So, seek first My kingdom and My righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**

 I want to go to some examples of this in scripture this morning…

Job 1:1 (NIV) In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.

 What a powerful testimony of a man!

 He was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.

Job 1:6 (NIV) One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them.

**7 The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"**

**Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it."**

**8 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."**

**9 "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied.**

**10 "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land.**

**11 But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."**

**12 The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger."**

 Satan unleashes the full fury of hell against Gods servant Job.

 All of Job’s animals are taken, his crops destroyed, his servants and his children killed.

 In one day Job lost everything of worldly value that he had.

 How does he respond to such great adversity and tragedy in his life?

Job 1:20 (NIV) At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship

**21 and said:**

**"Naked I came from my mother's womb,**

**and naked I will depart.**

**The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away;**

**may the name of the LORD be praised."**

**22 In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing**.

Then Satan goes back to God …

**Job 2:3 (NIV) Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason."**

**4 "Skin for skin!" Satan replied. "A man will give all he has for his own life.**

**5 But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face."**

**6 The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life."**

**7 So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head.**

**8 Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes.**

**9 His wife said to him, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!"**

**10 He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?"**

**In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.**

 Even Job’s loving wife failed to give him any support…

**Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!"**

**You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?"**

How could Job respond to such adversity in his life in this way?

Because he understood what life is all about!

 Job knew that it wasn’t about him, but it was about God!

Job knew that Life wasn’t about his comfort or discomfort. It wasn’t about his prosperity or poverty but life was about His God! It was about Gods purpose and Gods plan, not his own purposes or his own plans!

Some of the most powerful words found in Scripture are spoken by this great man of the faith in the midst of extreme personal trial and tribulation……

**Job 19:25 (NIV) I know that my Redeemer lives,**

**and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.**

**26 And after my skin has been destroyed,**

**yet in my flesh I will see God;**

**27 I myself will see him with my own eyes--I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!**

What could elicit such a response from a man who was in the middle of such severe trial and suffering?

 He knew that it wasn’t about Him---It was about God!

 About Gods purpose and plan!.

 And that was enough for Job to know---That knowledge was sufficient in the midst of any trial or tribulation that he may ever have to go through.

 The apostle Paul was possibly the New Testament equivalent of Job…

Listen to Paul’s personal testimony….

**2Cor 11:23 (NIV) Are they servants of Christ? I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again.**

**24 Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one.**

**25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea,**

**26 I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers.**

**27 I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.**

**28 Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.**

If you were Paul, at what point would you have considered bailing out on the Lord?

 Not once but five times he was whipped with a cat of nine tails.

 Not just once but tree times he was beaten with rods.

 Not just once but three times he was shipwrecked and left treading water out in the open sea.

 Once he was stoned and left under a pile of rocks for dead.

 He wasn’t just occasionally on the move and in danger butPaul says: **I have been constantly on the move and been in danger! In danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers.**

**27 I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.**

**28 Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.**

 How could Paul go through all that he went through in this life as a Christian and not just say “it is not worth it” and move on?

 Paul gives the answer in the next Chapter…

**2Cor 12:7 (NIV) To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.**

**8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.**

9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

What enabled Paul to go through all that he went through in this life for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

It wasbecause he knew what life was all about.

Because he knew that it wasn’t about him.

 It wasn’t about him but it was about His God.

 It was all about God’s purpose and God’s plan and God’s kingdom.

 It wasn’t about his abilities or his strengths, or how good or bad he felt, or how good or bad he looked, or whether he was living in poverty or wealth, but it was about God’s grace and Gods ability to work His might and His power and His strength within Paul’s weakness.

 Here we see Paul coming to that place of understanding just what life is all about!. It is not about me---It is about God!

 So Paul says… Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

 God I get it! It is not about me! It has never been about me! It is and always has been about you! About your purpose and your plan and your will!

It is what Paul meant when he goes on to say in:

 **Gala 2:20 (NIV) I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.**

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.

What Paul is saying here is that it is not about me Lord, it’s all about You!

 The great commission, one of the last commands of Christ to His Church before He ascended to heaven bears this same message.

**Matt 28:18 (NIV) Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.**

**19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**

**20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."**

What was Jesus implying in these words about what it important, what life is really all about?

 It’s not about you, it’s not about me, but it is all about God! All about His purpose and His plan and the establishment of His kingdom and whatever role we may have to play in His plan and His purpose and the establishment of His kingdom.

 Yet, How often do we live our lives as Christians as if life were all about us? We live our lives striving to fulfill our desires, fulfill our needs, live for our comfort and our prosperity?

 A long time ago a brother in Christ made a statement that has really stuck with me yet I didn’t really understand what he was saying until recently….

 He said that when he prayed that he never prayed for himself… Never! He said that when he had accepted Jesus as Lord and savior of his life that he placed himself in God’s hands and he figured that was enough as far as himself was concerned….

The good that came he would praise God for! And the trials and tribulations that might come, he would praise God for that too, because if trial and tribulation came then he figured that God must have a perfectly good reason for allowing it and he knew that God’s grace was more than enough to get him through whatever life may hold.

 In other words, he knew what life was all about and

 It wasn’t about Him, but it was about God!

 When we really understand this, that it is not about me but it is all about God, it should be one of the most liberating, freeing understandings that we will ever come to….

 If we understand that life is not about me but that it is about God and His purpose and His plan and His kingdom then we won’t need to perform any longer. We won’t need to go through life putting on one mask after another trying to be all things to all people.

Guys –Life is not just about making all the money that you can make to provide more and more of the things of this world for your family, striving to keep up with the Jones’s…

Life is not about that.. It is about fulfilling your part of Gods Kingdom plan for your life…

 Ladies—Life is not just about trying to be the perfect wife and perfect mother and perfect housekeeper--- It’s not about being super-mom or super-wife--- It is about fulfilling your part of Gods Kingdom plan for your life...

 Kids—Life is not just about your popularity or being one of the guys or girls or whether you wear certain kinds of clothes or shoes… It is not about being the perfect son or daughter that never disappoints your parents…. It’s about your fulfilling Gods purpose and plan for your life and being all that you can be for him, fulfilling His purpose and His plan in your life…

 I don’t know exactly what the Lord is going to say to us, what questions that He might ask us on that day that we stand before Him… But I am pretty sure of what He isn’t going to ask us….

 He is not going to ask us:

 How much wealth were you able to amass in this life—how many things that we were able to accumulate…. Or if we were always the perfect husband or wife or son or daughter… Or if everyone always liked us… or if we always looked good and had all the latest fashion-ware….

 How do I know that the Lord won’t ask us any of these kinds of questions?

 Because they are of no eternal significance.

 They will mean absolutely nothing in eternity.

 The one question that I believe that the Lord will ask each and every one of us on that day that we stand before Him is:

 What kind of steward have you been with the precious gift of life that I have given you?

 How have you lived your life?

 What was life all about to you?

 On that day will you be able to stand before Him and say:

 Well, Lord, my life wasn’t about me, it was about You.

 It was about fulfilling your purpose and your plan – it was about being all that I could be for you.

 In closing, what is your life all about this morning?

 Is it all about you or is it all about God?

 Is it all about your plans and your purpose in life or is it about fulfilling Gods plan and Gods purpose with your life?

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