

## **LIFE LESSONS – Making It Live**

**David Welsh | “Destination: The Burial Tomb” | John 19:38-42 | April 16 & 17, 2011**

**Could you be called a “chameleon” in regard to your belief/life operating system?** Let’s start with a little personal evaluation. Do you live a life where you purposely choose to “blend in” with the philosophies of those around you? What is your motivation for living that way? Do you seek to avoid having to stand for your beliefs? Do you play this role to avoid being labeled as a Christian or some kind of a “goody-goody?” Does your philosophy change as you move from one social context to another? Discuss: Jesus does not need any more spies! He needs men and women who will take a stand for Him and for what is right.

**What kind of preparation for life and eternity have you thought about?** There will come a crossroads in your walk of faith in which you must decide the path that you will take for Christ. Are you willing to take a chance that you may take a wrong turn? In a world of maps and GPS so available what do you do to find your way as you drive about? How could you make some preparations and have some expectation of what to do when you come to a crossroads? We are encouraged to have an emergency evacuation plan in case of a fire or danger in our schools, work places, and homes. Discuss if there is a reason we don’t prepare for “life” and the paths we choose to follow. Share some scriptures that give you direction to your purpose in life.

**Do you have a list of “core values” that define who you are as an individual and a family?** Would those core values lead you “to do the right thing?” Love leads us to do the right thing but “love” is an often confusing word. Does my “love for ice cream” usually lead me to do the right thing??? Share some of the different meanings and applications for the word “love” in our society. Let’s try substituting the word “conviction” for the word love. Conviction leads us to do the right thing!

**Are you a person of conviction?** Are you a person and a family who is able to live out your “core values” and convictions? Are you true to the Bible exhortations? Read Philippians 1:12-30 and discuss verse 21 “For me to live is Christ...” and verse 27 “Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ...standing firm in one spirit, with one mind, striving together for the faith of the gospel.” The Lord calls us to daily live out our faith. Share some ways you can be more predetermined in living for Christ. Discuss what the Lord would want to see us and our families doing in terms of living out scripture on a daily basis. Talk about what you believe your “core values” are or should be! When it comes to expressing words and acts of love, don’t wait till someday. Don’t wait until it’s too late!

**What do you think is that next step of faith that God is calling you to as you walk confidently towards Eternity with Him?** Your hope must be in Jesus Christ or you have no hope at all! As you think about that statement about “hope”, discuss what you think that encompasses. Is this the same hope that Jesus and the disciples talked about as HOPE? Read Hebrews 11:1. The Amplified Bible puts it this way “Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].” The Lord wants to continually give us the grace to take the next step of faith.

*Written by Ross Lamp*