

The Last Arrow

Week 1 – January 3, 2021

Scripture: Ephesians 5:15-21 and Luke 12:13-21

Grab your Bible and a few people to connect with. Look up the verses below and share your thoughts. It's that easy!

Share: What are most looking forward to in 2021? Why?

Read Ephesians 5:15-21 and Luke 12:13-21 together: Take turns reading if you prefer. Enjoy the different Bible translations we each read.

Discuss the following context:

What is the secret to living a full, worthwhile life? We can save, hoard, hide, and calculate our time, resources, and relationships. Or, we can give all that we are and have and live every second. This new series will consider the powerful life lessons found in the book, *The Last Arrow* by author and pastor Erwin McManus.

The only way to save nothing for the next life is to live for Christ above all. In Ephesians 5 Paul calls us to begin each day with focus and commitment. When you treat a moment like there's no redo, option B, or backup plan it forces you to move with such a deeper level of focus, purpose and intentionality. Asking yourself "am I living for what matters most" is not necessarily about *doing* more, but about *being* more.

Share your thoughts about following questions:

1. Paul doesn't say the things that happen each day are evil but that the days themselves are evil. (Ephesians 5:16-18) The days of life on this side of eternity have an evil ability to lull us into a sort of deadly sleep where the opportunities and relationships God has for us can be missed or overlooked.
 - a. Have you ever lost long term sight or the bigger picture of something, and as a result, made a regretful decision in the moment? Share your experience.
 - b. Paul is not referring to security or goals, but rather *priorities* - i.e. where your heart is. What types of things do people often pursue as opposed to living for the purpose God created them for?
2. Living life with a "last arrow kind of focus and intentionality" is not about trying to get God to care about the things we do. These things don't matter when we care about the things God cares about. Jesus warns us that our hearts and what we treasure are intertwined. (Luke 12:13-21) The issue isn't having "stuff"; the issue is why you want it and what you do with it. If Jesus were to assess your richness towards God today, would you be wealthy, or broke?
3. Consider some of the costs to living for the things of the world: tired every day, feeling like we never have enough no matter how much we have, living close to the edge of agitation, cynicism and depression.
 - a. What are you presently doing, pursuing or caring about that doesn't matter to God?
 - b. What eternal endeavors, pursuits, and concerns do you want to occupy your life this year?

Pray together: Ask each other to share what is on your heart today. Ask God to help you live with a "last arrow kind of focus and intentionality" this year. Ask Him to eliminate the places in your life where you are not living for what matters most. Jesus, cultivate our hearts to care about the things you care about, and let go of the things you don't.