

Don't Miss Jesus

“Opportunities are like sunrises. If you wait too long, you miss them.” William Arthur Ward

There are so many things in life to do that it seems like there is not time enough for all of them. The world offers so much that we often wrongly choose things that are on the surface good. But they pull us away from the highest and the best, namely God himself.

So we must choose. We must look for what can benefit the most. When we have searched for all the rest, and have found what we thought for a time was wonderful, but then realized it was temporary, we turn to the eternal.

Architect Frank Lloyd Wright once told of an incident that may have seemed insignificant at the time, but had a profound influence on the rest of his life. The winter he was 9, he went walking across a snow-covered field with his reserved, no-nonsense uncle. As the two of them reached the far end of the field, his uncle stopped him. He pointed out his own tracks in the snow, straight and true as an arrow's flight, and then young Frank's tracks meandering all over the field. "Notice how your tracks wander aimlessly from the fence to the cattle to the woods and back again," his uncle said. "And see how my tracks aim directly to my goal. There is an important lesson in that."

Years later the world-famous architect liked to tell how this experience had greatly contributed to his philosophy in life. "I determined right then," he'd say with a twinkle in his eye, "not to miss most things in life, as my uncle had."

There is a certain sense in which remaining focused on a goal is good. But if that goal is the wrong one, we end up worse off than we were before.

It is not most things in life that we must find, but the most important. For the child, it was the desire to see everything in the moment. For the adult, it is to find the beautiful, the important, the wonderful, and finally, the eternal.

At their home in Bethany, near Jerusalem, Martha was rushing around to prepare for and serve Jesus. Mary sat at his feet, listening to what Jesus had to say. Martha fussed about Mary, and Jesus said to her. "Martha, Martha," he said, "you are worried about many things. Only one thing is necessary."

What's that one thing? It is Jesus. All other blessings and experiences pale beside being in the presence of Jesus.

We must believe in Jesus as Creator, Savior, God and King. Jesus is not just a teacher, not just a historical figure. He is not dead. He is alive, and eternal, and in him everything else makes sense.

"I am trying here," writes C.S. Lewis in Mere Christianity, "to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or

else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

When we meet Jesus as Savior of God, the walk through snow changes, because we walk with Jesus who made it snow. When we awaken to a sunny Sunday morning when the television or the sports arena calls, we walk with him to church, for that is where he is going.

When we get ready for our meal, we bow in thanksgiving because God has provided it. When we plan our week, we ask first what God wants to do, not what we want to do ourselves.

When our children trust us to make the best decisions for them, we must realize that the things of God are most important. We must not listen to them when they want to do something else, for after all, they are children.

And so are we sometimes. Do not miss Jesus. He is all that matters.

“Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?” Haggai 1:4