

SN MV 6, 83 - RM

"IT IS GREAT TO BE ALIVE"

Matt. 6:25-30

Governor of Tenn. said after serious part of an illness -- I did not know I was in a deep valley. I thought I had gone to sleep for two hours. I woke up, days later, and they told me. I was at the gate of death. "I could only say it's just great to be alive."

Close call - Jesus says this in Scripture. Gate - greatful - excited - be alive.

Billy Sunday - wrote Mayor of a city - please send me a list of the people who need special prayer as we come for this Revival.

Mayor obliged - sent the Telephone Directory!

He was right on target - not just this person needs special prayer - all need!

Mat 6:25-30

Anxieties - what we're going to wear - eat - do. Jesus, is not life more than clothes, houses, and things? It is great to be alive.

Jesus talking to us - when is it great to be alive?

I. THE GIFT OF ONE MORE DAY

Thank God - gift.

Some went to sleep last night - do not have this gift. They did not wake up. They cannot say what a beautiful day it is. Great to be alive. Died last night.

By the grace and goodness, I opened my eyes and saw light of new day.
Thanked God for the gift.

Salesman - meetings - positive - enthusiastic - believe in setting
goals. New positive direction.

Speaker said - important to start the day right. Here is the way to do
it. Alarm goes off. Jump out of bed! Don't crawl out. Don't drag out.
Jump!

Put both feet on the floor - throw arms out - look out - and yell,
yip! yip! yip! Say "its a beautiful day." Do this three times. Set the
spirit - set the mood of the day.

Enthusiastic - energetic - positive. And be that way all day.

One man who attended - I thought that the craziest thing.

But the speaker had made fools out of all of them. They wanted to jump
right up out of their seats. Stand and all. Throw arms out - lift head. Yell
yip! yip! yip! It's a beautiful day.

He lead them like a cheerleader yip! yip! yip! It's a beautiful day.

Do it again.

Funny thing the man said, I felt better - good - decided to try it.

Alarm went off - eased feet out of bed - stood tall and said yip! yip!
yip!

Wife said - have you gone crazy?

Just ^{is/} thanking the Lord for the beautiful day.

She said well, I thank him too, I always thank God for the new day,
every morning.

Man learned something.

How could she - up all night sick child - roll out of bed - alarm - go
to kitchen and fix breakfast. Get children off - settling fusses, singing,
humming - bright optimistic.

Finally he said I would drag out - drink coffee - read the paper and not
let anyone speak to me for 10 minutes.

I saw the difference - I excused myself, not a morning person.

It is great to be alive. God's gift. He did not give to everybody.
Precious day - to live - what am I going to do with it?

I ought to be excited about it. It may be my last one.

Be at my best - start by thanking God. Gift.

Psa. - "This is the day which the Lord hath made: we will rejoice and be
glad in it!"

II. THE GIFT OF PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

Do you say - face same old problem - old things - burdens.

What are burdens? They challenge us.

That is what living is all about - living, striving - living - growing
- developing - our skills.

Discovering the great things God can do through us if we let him.

Great to be alive for challenges of life.

More problems have to solve - greater potential of truly living.

Australia is a great country. Sydney, Australia, first settled as a penal colony of Britian.

Sent convicts down there - half way around the world from England where they were completely isolated.

✓ When they (served out their term) - he was free to leave Australia, go back to England or anywhere in the world.

Problem, no way to make a living in penal institution. When their time was up - no resources - no way back to civilization - trapped.

Ocean on East - 40 miles to West mountain range. Desert to North and South - desolate waste - locked in.

Governor of the colony decided develop farm land if find forests beyond

the mountains.

One expedition after another failed.

No one able to get over.

Finally, Government declared it impossible to go over the mountain range - no more attempts would be made and they were named the Barrier Mountains.

What a negative statement - idea - the impossible barrier - impossible to get over or around.

We live in the face of barrier.

Convicts continued to try to escape from the Colony and get over the mountains and they failed.

They believed on the other side of the mountains a bridge to China and thus to Europe. Or over there could be farm lands, minerals, gold.

1813 - 3 young men said nothing impossible - we will cross the mountains - studied, found a pattern of defeat. Each followed the stream beds up the valleys to reach the pass, blocked by a cliff.

We will take another approach and get on top of the ridge right at the beginning and climb hard paths and stay on the peak all the way up and hope to

The runner - gets the second wind and goes on to the goal.

Musician - organ - piano - by taking easy valley road - needs discipline to climb.

Scholar never learns by easy valley.

Spiritually -

Jesus: wide is the way - easy is the path downward to destruction.

Straight - narrow is path upward.

So - God plants barriers in our lives that is what problems are - for us to solve - get on top.

We climb this little mountain - bigger one - last on the peak, great future before.

Many, many examples.

I read about a man this week in Ky. 49 years old. Broke - lost everything.
By God helping me I built a new business.

Here is a real story. This man - a good bus driver and secure, but he could not read.

One day bus company said we will give all our drivers a written examination. This man could not read.

Company said - believe you qualified to drive but if you cannot read - two options. Be fired or resign. You cannot work for us. I'll resign.

Without a job, unable to read - found a job, grocery store. To carry boxes and unload boxes. Worked hard - did his best.

Day came when he was manager of the store. Sheer determination - hard work - driving ahead.

One day he bought little grocery store - Southern Ky. It grew and grew - he started a chain. That chain developed until today he is a wealthy man - with many stores - very successful man.

As the man related his story - he concluded by saying - I was fired because I could not read.

The other person said, you mean you do not have an education? No. If they examined me I would rank 3rd grade or less. I never did learn to read.

You have done well, what in the world would you have been if you had learned to read?

The man said, (I would have been a bus driver.)

If he had not had a problem, he would not have been fired.

He thought he had it made as a bus driver.

Barrier in front of him, no job, he took the challenge.

That is what God does to all of us. About the time we think we have it settled and made - then there is a barrier - problem - challenge.

Paul - all things work together.

It is great to be alive and thank God for this gift. These things can be good for us.

III. GREAT WHEN YOU ARE REALLY ALIVE!

I really do have life!

Think about it. Do you have life - not without Jesus.

Jesus - I came that ye might have life - more abundantly.

Two men walking in the cemetery - reading head stones. Peace at last,
sleep in peace - not dead, just sleeping. One shook his head - "He ain't
fooling nobody but himself."

A lot of people are fooling themselves - I am living. How are you? Great.
But deep inside, you know it is not.

Are you alive?

Are you alive to love - prayer - presence of God in your heart?

If you do not have hope, you do not have life.

If you were to die tonight, what hope do you have?

If you do not have Jesus Christ, you do not have life today.

If you die - walk up to gates of Heaven and into God's presence, let me
in - I want to live. I do not want things as they have been in South Norfolk.

God would say - why should I let you in Heaven? What answer would you give.

Righteousness as filthy rags.

What do I have to do to get in. Have Jesus as Lord.

"I am the way - the truth - the life!"

No hope, peace, victory, power, presence without Jesus.

If you have him, you can get up in the morning and say - Thank God for
this day. What a wonderful gift. It's great to be alive.

Thank God for the hope that is mine because I really have life here in
my heart.

Nothing can take Jesus from me.

If you do not have that hope - now is the time to claim it - do it now!