

## **Part 13: Build Your Dream**

### ***Live the Life You've Always Wanted!***

#### **Texts:**

**James 4:14 (NKJV)** - "For what is your life?"

**Jeremiah 24:6-7 (NKJV)** - "For I will set My eyes on them for good, and I will bring them back to this land; I will build them and not pull them down, and I will plant them and not pluck them up. [7] Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the Lord; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart."

**Philippians 3:13-15 NKJV)** - "Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, [14] I **press** toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. [15] Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you."

**Luke 14:25-30 (NKJV)** - "Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, [26] "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. [27] And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. [28] For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it- [29] lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, [30] saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish?'"

A. In Andrew's message last Sunday, he made a statement that has kept me thinking all week. When asked to speak in a "Don't Waste Your Life" Conference, the title he chose was, "If You Don't Want to Waste Your Life, Don't Spend It Trying to Live Your Old Life." Let me explain.

1. If you should become part of a culture with unfamiliar customs, it would take a while to understand their ways. Since we were all born into a fallen world with unscriptural customs, the principles of the unsaved always lead to loss, while the principles in God's Kingdom always lead to success. Yet it's so easy to examine the culture of this new Kingdom and try to understand it according to the constructs of the fallen world that framed your thinking for so long.
2. For example, names such as Thibodeaux, Boudreaux, Atchafalaya or étouffée were common to me, but very strange to others. Since the origin of these names are French or Choctaw Indian, the English rules of pronunciation you learned in school could be quite intimidating.
4. **Joke:** Speaking of correct pronunciation, have you ever driven on I-10 from Lafayette, Louisiana, to Baton Rouge? If so, you had to cross the Atchafalaya Basin Bridge, an 18 mile elevated structure that cuts through swamps in Iberville and St. Martin's Parish. It's a beautiful wilderness area, but most people have trouble with the pronunciation. It's actually a Choctaw Indian word that means "long river."  
When you finally cross the bridge, you'll notice several restaurants and gas stations. A couple of tourists who had been debating how to pronounce "Atchafalaya" walked into the Burger King and asked the girl at the counter if she would please say the name very slowly so they could understand how it should be pronounced.  
She looked at them with amazement and slowly said, "Burr-Gerr King!"
5. When we enter the Kingdom of God, we naturally begin to interpret what we see, read and hear through the common filters of this fallen world system. By applying the principles of the unredeemed world to the

redeemed, we'll probably imitate the guy who moved from Canada to New Orleans.

6. **Joke:** Dead Man on My Porch

Did you hear about the guy who called 911 and said to the dispatcher, "I want to report a dead man on my porch."

The dispatcher asked if he was sure the man was dead and he replied that he was pretty sure he was.

So, the dispatcher asked for the address so they could send a coroner to investigate. The caller said that he lived at 903 Tchoupitoulis Street. The dispatcher asked him to spell it and he said, "Let's see, 903 Tchoupitoulis. That's Chop, C-h-o-p, two...that's t-w-o, no, that's not right. It's Chop-it-two...no, that's not right either. Oh, just hold on a minute."

When the dispatcher heard the man huffing and breathing hard, he asked what the problem was. The caller said, "Just give me a minute. I'm dragging the body a block away to 903 St. James Street. I can't spell Tchoupitoulis."

7. Many of us still relate to our relationship and image of God from our past. This is what Andrew was saying: "Don't allow your past understanding to prevent you from experiencing the Kingdom life God meant for you to enjoy."
8. Such erroneous thinking will affect who we intend to become and what we expect to happen in our lives. And it will definitely affect our dreams!

B. Everyone has dreams...even God!

1. **John 3:17 (NKJV)** - "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."
2. God has dreams for what you will become. He wants your life to be the best it can possibly be. Because He is for you and not against you, He wants His people to be a living testimonial of how holy and good He is.

3. **Luke 12:32** tells us, "It is our Father's good pleasure to give us the Kingdom"--and **everything in the Kingdom!** A kingdom involves concepts such as: government, economy, the health and welfare of its subjects, and much more. It encompasses far more than just spiritual matters.
4. When we are blessed spiritually—plus the other areas of life, without saying a word, we become powerful witnesses for the One we serve!
5. Genesis, chapter 1, states that God created man to have dominion. Having lost that authority in the fall, we instinctively yearn to regain it. This is why people are so fascinated by movie stars, the wealthy, sports figures, and rock stars. We are attracted to those who seem to have overcome the fall and risen to a higher level than the rest of humanity.
  - a. **Genesis 1:28 (NKJV)** - "Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
6. Of course, as anyone can verify who has ever attained any degree of success apart from God, it is only an illusion.
7. On the other hand, members of the church have also erred by teaching that the purpose for Christ's coming was merely to save us from hell. But He wants to do so much more! He came to restore what Adam lost—which includes every area of dominion.

C. We have been teaching about making our dreams become a reality.

1. The steps we must take are: **See It! Say It! Pray It! Pay It! Play It! Stay It!** and **Sanctify It!**
2. While **See It!** involves a clearly defined goal or vision, **Say It!** causes us to speak positive things into our lives; **Pray It!** is about enlisting the help of Almighty God to become both **who** and **all** He meant us to be. And make no mistake, as Jeremiah declared, God wants to help **and** bless us!

3. This brings us to the next section of this series:

## ***"Pay It!"***

D. Dreams are **not** free. They always cost something. To venture past mediocrity and enjoy the extraordinary life we would all prefer, we must pay the price!

1. Jesus did extraordinary things—not as God, but as a Man surrendered to God and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
2. As the second Adam, Jesus revealed what the first Adam was like before he fell—which is the same level He wants us to attain.
3. Crowds were mesmerized by Jesus' teaching and miracles. In essence, He was saying, "If you're weary with an ordinary life, I'll teach you to live at the same level and perform the same works that I do—and even greater works. But remember—there is a price to pay for that next level."
4. To become His 'disciple,' or a student mentored by a Teacher, Jesus was saying, "I'll show you the way; I'll teach you to live at the same level as Adam—but it will cost you something."
5. Learning always has a price tag. Regardless of the field—medicine, law, music, ministry, or a trade—you will never advance to a higher level without years of study, practice, and refining your skills.
6. Paul also spoke of pressing forward to obtain the goal you're striving for. So, let's talk about how to:

***Keep Pushing, Keep Stretching,  
Keep Reaching, and Keep Growing!***

E. While serving with him on a ministry board, Texas oil billionaire Bunker Hunt guaranteed that success is simple if you will follow two rules.

1. I can agree that success is conceptually simple—if you learn the proper techniques of something that isn't too complicated.
2. But more difficult than learning the techniques is spending massive hours properly training your mind and body for the task.
3. Let's study Hunt's two rules in detail to apply them to our lives.

F. **Rule No. 1:** Decide specifically what you want!

1. Details are so important. Never set goals that are so broad and general, they can never be achieved.
2. Write your primary goals with sub-headings. Make them as detailed and specific as possible.
3. But is it really necessary to write clear, specific goals? It might not be to get to Heaven, but it certainly helps if you're serious about improving your life. Notice these verses:
  - a. **Psalm 27:4 (NKJV)** - "**One** thing I have desired of the Lord, That will I **seek**."
  - b. **Philippians 3:13-15 (NKJV)** - "Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but **one** thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and **reaching forward** to those things which are **ahead**, [14] I **press** toward the goal for the prize of the **upward call** of God in Christ Jesus. [15] Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you."
  - c. **Habakkuk 2:2 (NKJV)** - "Then the Lord answered me and said: "Write the vision And make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it."
4. If you're serious about reaching the next level, write a classic five-year plan that describes where you want to be five years from now. Then break the five years into smaller chunks that will become steps toward your dream. What are your 1-year, 3-month, 3-week, and daily goals?

5. My dad taught me something that has been so helpful my entire life. He always carried a small notepad and pen in his shirt pocket to list what he wanted to accomplish that day. And believe me, it works!
  - a. My wife is a perfectionist about housekeeping and cleanliness. And I like that. People have joked for years that you could eat off her floors. In these days, she prefers tile and hardwood floors. But when we had carpet throughout the house, I'm telling the truth, she would vacuum her way out of the door when we left our home. Many times I would be sitting in the car with the engine running while she vacuumed the footprints we had made on our way out. If our house was ever burglarized, I suppose she wanted the thief to know she was a really good housekeeper!
  - b. But when her perfectionism affected my list, that was a different story. In our early marriage, it became the source of many disagreements. At times, my list would disappear before I had completed one of the written tasks. Thank God for iPhones! My to-do list of goals for the day, week, and month are never lost when posted on my phone. That's what keeps me moving forward!
6. The reason for lists is simple: since time passes so quickly, without goals you will squander your most valuable resource and miss things that demand your attention. Written goals help you achieve your dream.
  - a. John Greenleaf Whittier said: "Of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these: "It might have been."
7. Achieving a dream requires the completion of many small, specific goals.
  - a. For example, if 'exercise' is on my list today, I must hit the gym for an hour; if it's learning to play the guitar, I must practice my major and minor pentatonic scales; if it's my profession, I must learn everything I can to be the very best at what I do—even if it means enrolling in night classes to advance my education.

- b. More specifically, I can't stay at home and watch "The Golden Girls" (even if Betty White rocks!). If you're serious about becoming an authentic Christian, attending church every Sunday isn't too much to ask.
- 8. In case you're wondering why a 'three week' goal rather than four, it's a trick! Our minds have been so conditioned to think in terms of weeks and months, it just seems that I still have plenty of time if my goal is a week or month away. A month seems **far** away, but three weeks is closer. I know it may seem silly, but the time frame of a single week can make a big difference...at least, it works for me.

G. **Rule No. 2:** Decide you're willing to pay the price...then pay it!

- 1. This is the big one. To save mankind, even God had to be willing to pay the **ultimate price** for His dream to become a reality. **He gave His only begotten Son.** Inherent in the "Build Your Dream" slogan is the idea that it won't happen if we do nothing. To actually "build" a dream implies effort and time on our part.
- 2. People envy those who are living their dream, whether it's a marriage, career, ministry, the car they drive or the house where they live. But the truth is, there's no reason to envy others. Anyone can live their dream! If you want to live at a higher level of your dream, you must pay the price to get there.
  - a. **Matthew 13:44-46 (NKJV)** - "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells **all** that he has and buys that field.  
[45] "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, [46] who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it."
- 3. To obtain the treasure, you must buy the whole field—not just the part you prefer.

- a. Even if the treasure occupies only a small part of the field, you must purchase the whole property to gain the treasure.
  - b. That includes the worthless portion that's overgrown with weeds, filled with stones, impossible to farm, not suitable to erect a building, and will never be useful or valuable.
  - c. The field might even include a swampy area that doesn't drain well and only breeds mosquitoes.
4. Dreams are like that. For your dream to become a reality, you must buy the whole package.
  - a. You can't just visit the gym one day and walk out with a perfect six pack the next. You must buy the field.
  - b. Yes, it will require many hours, day after day, week after week, month after month, and year after year of going to the gym when you would much rather be doing something else. To gain the treasure, you must buy the field.
5. The same is true for building a career, a business, a ministry or a family. Just because a company hired you doesn't mean you can relax and take it easy. You must keep pushing, keep stretching, keep reaching, and keep growing! You have to buy the field to enjoy the treasure.
6. In fact, the more valuable the dream, the greater the price you must be willing to pay.

H. If you aren't willing to pay the price, you will never achieve your dreams.

1. A goal is useless if you do nothing to accomplish it.
2. That's much like the dude who dreams about writing songs, but sits all day watching movies and playing video games. Don't be that guy!
3. Even if a person has great talent, if they aren't willing to pay the price, their talent will go to waste.
4. Speaking of being a song writer, almost everyone has heard of the artist Prince and his success. But did you know that Prince wrote a song every

single day for many years? True, you've never heard most of them, but that's the kind of dedication and commitment needed for some of those songs to be pretty good!

a. (Play excerpt from the song "Kiss" by Prince)

You don't have to be rich

To be my girl

You don't have to be cool

To rule my world

Ain't no particular sign I'm more compatible with

I just want your extra time and your Kiss.

I. Years ago, I flew on a plane with the U.S. Olympic Judo team as they traveled to the games.

1. The young man sitting beside me was 27. For this moment to arrive, he had practiced 4 hours a day since the age of 7.
2. An American physician spends an average of 14 years training: four years of college, four years of medical school, and three to eight years of residencies and fellowships.
3. To build a business requires years of practice, with adjustments all along the way. When people see a successful businessman and envy his lifestyle, cars, house, bank account, etc., they never consider the sacrifice and tears it took to get there.
4. Whether it's writing songs, being an inventor, welder, or an advanced mathematician, dedication separates the mediocre from the extraordinary. The same is true for ministry, sales, or building a marriage.
5. ***How bad do you want it?***