

No Life Redeemed By Jesus Is A Wasted Life

12th Step - Lesson 5

Step 12: "Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to addicts and to practice these principles in all our affairs" – After hurting and neglecting people for so many years, now we want to do something with our lives that will help people. Fears of "too little, too late" can bother us.

John 15:5 – " I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

- Notice Jesus says, "If a man remains in me and I in him, he *will* bear much fruit." That's a promise. No life redeemed by Jesus is a wasted life. Jesus will do something great with whatever you give him.

Matthew 7:21-23 – "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

- It's not about what good things you've done or how many good things you've done; it's all about doing "the will of God" by trusting in his grace.

Luke 19:20-24 – "Then another servant came and said, 'Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.' His master replied, 'I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow? Why then didn't you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?' Then he said to those standing by, 'Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.'"

- The only way your life ends up wasted is if you spend it believing in something other than the God who loves you and accepts you for Jesus' sake.

Luke 23:41-43 – "We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

- Think of all the people who will be lining up in heaven to let this guy know how much he encouraged them!

How have you seen God's grace changing wasted years into something valuable?