

“Taking Your Life Off Pause” - Luke 14:15-24
Pastor Burt Garwood - August 6, 2017

“I love watching movies at home for the pause button. In such a busy world, it seems silly that I would talk about ‘taking your life off pause.’ Most of us would love to have our lives put on pause for just a couple hours. But I'm not talking about ‘pause’ in that regard. I'm talking about taking your ‘faith-walk’ off pause.”

I. The Invitation. [Luke 14:15-17]

- This invitation IS NOT about being a good religious person...
- This invitation IS about trusting Jesus as Lord of your life and Savior of your soul.
- This party happens SOMEDAY in heaven.
- This party also happens NOW...in everyday life as we Love Others and bring them to Jesus’ banquet.
- This invitation is about attending the banquet NOW, not just someday.

II. Pressing the Pause Button. [Luke 14:18-20]

- The first two excuses (verses 18-19) represent a person who lives for work. This type of person sacrifices family for work. Sadly, this person also didn’t take time in life to have a relationship with Jesus...and therefore misses the party altogether.
- The third excuse (verse 20) represents a person who lives for family. In ancient times, when a man got married, he was given a year off from military service (Deuteronomy 24:5). But he was still expected to live life in the community. Sometimes we love our family so much that we don’t engage Others in a relationship with Jesus.

How does Jesus respond? *“Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.”* Matthew 10:37-38

- Jesus is teaching here about priorities and how the spiritual life matters most...much more than the activities of our physical lives...that we even sacrifice some family things to advance God’s kingdom.
- I remember growing up in the Philippines as a missionary kid. We sacrificed a lot of family time to Love Others. There was always someone in our house...we were always going somewhere to serve, to love, to reach...and I wouldn’t have had it any other way.

III. Pressing the Play Button. [Luke 14:21-24]

- The key role in this story is that of the servant’s. The owner of the house sends the servant to bring guests to the banquet. Jesus is calling us to be the servants in his kingdom work who invite others to Christ’s banquet. Will you respond to Jesus’ command to bring others to Christ’s banquet?
- What is keeping you from doing this?
- Does your schedule/routine keep you from reaching others? The majority of things on our daily schedule have nothing to do with bringing other people to know, love and follow Jesus Christ. Take your life off pause by getting rid of the busy stuff that isn’t essential. Some of us have way too many things on our plates.

- When it comes to sharing Jesus with others, we can spend too much of life waiting for the perfect opportunity. Take your life off pause by looking for ordinary, everyday opportunities in your routine to connect with people and bring your faith into the conversation.
- Do you have feelings of inadequacy due to your lack of knowledge? Take your life off pause by being a student of the Bible. Take your life off pause by attending your Small Group that will help equip you to share your faith with others.
- Do you think you’re too young? 1 Timothy 4:12 *"Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity."* Take your life off pause and be an influencer no matter what age you are.

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." Matthew 4:19

- Jesus simply invites us to follow him...and he will equip us.
- Take your life off pause...and live to Love Others into Christ’s Kingdom.