



## **PART 2 SOMETHING TO SHOW FOR IT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This is the time of year when we become painfully aware of where we are not, who we are not, and what we need to do differently. Traditionally, it's a season of self-absorption. We wonder how to get slimmer, stronger, and smarter. We wonder how to get out of debt. We wonder how to become better people. If you really want to become a better person, do something this year to make the world a better place. But how do you determine what you *should* do?

**RECAP:** What one thing from Sunday's message stood out for you?

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Over the last week as you wrestled with the question, "*What breaks my heart?*", what came to mind?
2. In what ways have you pursued significance throughout your life? How successful were those approaches?
3. Read Luke 14:25–27. Respond to what Jesus said in the passage. In what ways does it challenge your assumptions about your purpose in life? In what ways is it comforting?
4. How would you answer this question: "*At the end of my life I would like people to line up and thank me for...*"?
5. Based on your answer to the previous question, what might it cost you in terms of time, money, missed opportunity, or family time to pursue that desired future?
6. What is one thing you can do to begin to move toward that desired future? How can this group help you?

### **MOVING FORWARD**

What breaks your heart? What needs to change in your community? What can you do? Who can you partner with? Jesus invites you to a life of *purpose*. Devote yourself to more than yourself so you will have more than yourself to show for yourself.

### **CHANGING YOUR MIND**

*Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it."*

**Mark 8:34–35**

## IDEAS FOR YOUR EVENING:

**Worship or Prayer** (GBC Website 'Resources Tab')

**Other Texts: Psalm 39:4-5** *"Show me, O Lord, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life. You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Each man's life is but a breath.*

### A nice little walk in the Cemetery!

There's something about old gravestones and the lives they represent. You can't help but recognize that entire lives are reduced to two dates and one little dash. Some include a few facts or verses, but each person's life actually comes down to what happened between those two dates. **It comes down to what's in the dash.**

There's a lot of unspoken history in that dash- *What they lived for? Who they loved? What their passions and dreams were? Their biggest mistakes and greatest regrets?*

When you think about it, we don't have control over many things in life.

We didn't get to decide where we were born, who our parents are, or which time period and culture we face.

**We don't get to decide the dates on our gravestone.** Only God knows. Our lives are in His hands.

**But there is one thing we have a vast amount of control over.** We get to decide how to spend that little dash of time between the start & end of your earthly existence.

**What are you spending yours on? Are you living the dash?**

Or are you just dashing, spending precious time chasing things that really don't matter?

## **The story of Robert Pierce:**

In 1947, Robert Pierce worked for a religious non-profit organization called Youth for Christ, whose mission was to evangelize the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. The young evangelist held a Crusade in China, where thousands made public commitments as followers of Christ during four months of evangelistic rallies.[1] On the trip, he met Tena Hoelkedoer, a missionary teacher. She presented him a battered and abandoned child named White Jade who had given her life to Christ at Mr. Pierce's crusade and because of that was beaten and abandoned by her family. Unable to care for the child herself, Tena asked Pierce, "What are you going to do about her?" Pierce gave the woman his last five dollars and agreed to send the same amount each month to help the woman care for the child.

While there Pierce saw widespread hunger. It is said that he felt compassion for others. Pierce later wrote these words in the flyleaf of his Bible: "Let my heart be broken with the things that break the heart of God." Dragging a movie camera across Asia—China was soon closed—Pierce showed the resulting pictures to church audiences in North America. He asked for money to help children. He showed their faces and begged Christians to "adopt" one. In 1950 he incorporated this personal crusade as World Vision, which was then a service organization for missionaries and was originally not supposed to operate any projects.

In 1959 journalist Richard Gehman wrote that "[Pierce] cannot conceal his true emotions. He seems to me to be one of the few naturally, uncontrollably honest men I have ever met." Pastor Richard Halverson wrote that Pierce "prayed more earnestly and importunately than anyone else I have ever known. It was as though prayer burned within him. ... Bob Pierce functioned from a broken heart."