



MY MESSAGE FOR OUR PEOPLE OF SOUTH SUDAN ON THE MARTYRS, HEROS AND HEROINES DAY 30TH JULY 2020.

LET US AWAKE, REPENT AND FOCUS.

ECCLESIASTES: 2: 1-11 THE DENGER OF TOO MANY PURSUITS.

We can learn from King Solomon's costly mistakes, the king of Israel desperately pursued several unrelated goals in a vain attempt to satisfy himself. Here Ecclesiastes provides a good example of a leader who didn't know how to get what he wanted.

By the time King Solomon wrote these words, he had reached a high level of success—but still felt empty, he couldn't put his finger on why fulfilment continued to escape him. Because he lacked focus, he searched high and low, experimenting with all kinds of goals, yet never achieved satisfaction. Sadly he attempted to solve an inward problem with an outward solution. The old axiom remains true. If you chase two rabbits, both will escape. This was certainly true of King Solomon's futile attempt to reach his varied goals. (He pursued eight goals in Ecclesiastes 2 alone) So, what can we learn from this leader about focus?

1. He focused on too many things in too short a time.
2. He pursued the wrong goals to reach his desired outcome.
3. His self serving goals were all wrong.
4. He despaired because he never identified what he really wanted.

CHECK LIST FOR MAKING DECISIONS.

King Solomon eventually did narrow his focus, but it took him a lifetime and an entire book to attain this (see Ecclesiastes. 1: 12), he finally determined what really mattered and what he really wanted.

How about you, me? Have you, I, figured out our focus? How do we make major decisions? Do we have a way of determining our focus, based on what really matters or what really counts? Consider the following checklist as we make decisions about where to invest our time and energy.

When faced with a decision ask yourself:

1. Is this consistent with my priorities?
2. Is this within my area of competence?
3. Can someone else do it better?
4. What do my trusted friends say?
5. Do I have the time and the capacity?

When you say yes" to an opportunity, get ready to focus. Make to do lists. Set your priorities. Avoid clutter. Pursue excellence but avoid perfectionism. Question everything. Work to prevent procrastination. Control interruptions and distractions. When you empower, keep eyes on but hands off.

Use the calendar. Narrow your wedge—don't try to do everything. That means you'll have to say no to some good things. And can you say no gracefully?

1. Say no to the proposition, not to the person.
2. Respond in terms that convey the best interest of the person who's requesting your involvement.
3. Defer creatively, suggest an alternative.

FOR A POSITIVE EXAMPLE OF Philippians: 3: 5-9.

PAUL'S ABSOLUTE Focus gave him absolute willingness to let go of nice things that didn't matter. Note some items that he discarded:

1. His heritage: a Hebrew of the Hebrews
2. His pure lineage: from the tribe of Benjamin.
3. His former legalism: a strict Pharisee.
4. His past zeal: a persecutor of the church.
5. His righteousness, a blameless life.

PAUL so narrowed his focus that he discarded not only the things he once counted as gain, but he counted everything as garbage for the sake of obtaining Christ. He would lose it all if that allowed him to gain intimacy with Christ.

1. Leaders who change the world have this kind of sharp focus. Think about the leaders of the Bible and the focus they had to bring about revolutionary change:
2. Abraham: left his homeland, wealth, and friends for a new land because he focused on unseen kingdom.
3. Joseph to endure hardship and prison because his dream focused on the greatness of God.
4. Moses could turn his back on Egypt because he focused on God's plan.
5. Stephen preached an unpopular message and died a martyr because of his focus.
6. Paul gave everything up and said, "This one thing I do."

PAUL exemplifies a leader who focused on ultimate every day. How about you? To get back on the track with your focus, work on these items:

1. Work on yourself. You are your greatest asset or liability.
2. Work on your priorities. Fight for the important ones.
3. Work in your strength. You can reach your potential if you do.
4. Work with your colleagues, you can't be effective alone.

Let us rebuild a new peaceful and developed South Sudan like any other peaceful countries in Europe, America, Asia and Africa. Let us overcome mistrust and promote a peaceful coexistence. We should stop war and make South Sudan a peaceful Kingdom of God on earth.

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