

GREATEST COMBACKS

PART 7: COMING BACK FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE

James 4:13 – 17
Pastor Brian Rayburn
November 3/4, 2018

MESSAGE NOTES

What is it you are doing with the singular gift of your life? Juggling? Is that what I'm doing with my singular gift? It seems so, for I am a professional juggler — fit for a carnival. I multi-task incessantly, launching more and more things into nail-biting, ulcer-inducing flight: objectives and goals, people and deadlines, phone calls and text messages, and unanswered emails, fears and expectations, ego and masks. I spread myself impossibly thin beneath the imperative that more is better — bigger is better, faster is better, broader is better with the end result that I stagger through life in a harried frenzy, jittery and nervous as any addict.

— Mike Yankoski, *The Sacred Year*

What is it you are doing with the singular gift of your life?

God's problem here is not with planning or profit, it is with being so future-minded you are not presently good for anything or to anybody.

"Good" in the Greek here means an activity described by four categories:

1. Morally good
2. Noble
3. Praiseworthy
4. Contributing to salvation or faith

Proverbs 3:27 – 28

Four truths you and I need to wrestle with based upon this:

1. Most days we will have a dozen decisions to be productive or present. Choose present more.
2. If you are unable to be still with people, they will never be sure of your love or concern.
3. The allure of somewhere else is most often misplaced stress and anxiety.
4. To be fully present in each moment is to trust God intended this interaction, wants to use it, and trusts God for the next moments.

In attempt to be attentive this week I am going to:

Each morning for the next week take out a journal and answer two simple questions:

- What is something I am thankful for?
- What is something I will accomplish before I lay by head down tonight?

At the end of your day, take a short walk or sit down in a quiet, undisturbed place and in a journal or just in prayer, answer these two questions.

- For what moment today am I most grateful?
- For what moment today am I least grateful?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Name a few observations from James 4:13 –17.
- Brian talked about presuming upon God for tomorrow. How has presumption played a role in your faith journey? Or, how have you presumed upon God for provision, for your future plans?
- When you think about your own struggle to be present in the moment, where does your mind go when you go somewhere else? What does that say about your ability to trust God?
- What “good” (see verse 17) do you often miss because your mind is somewhere else?
- What “experiment” of Brian’s have you chosen for the week? Have you done it yet? What was the outcome?
- As a group, let’s try the Ignatian Examen together. Go around the group and each person answer:
 1. For what moment today am I most grateful?
 2. For what moment today am I least grateful?