



# Go Further . . . West Weekly Study Guide

## October 30, 2011

MONDAY 10.31.11 Matthew 6:19-21

This week's devotions will start a little differently. Monday and Tuesday are going to require more time on your part doing some "research."

### Sermon:

*Filling Up the Boxes*

### Scripture Reference:

John 15:11-17

Things I'd like to remember from this weeks message:

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### Prayer for Upcoming Week:

#### Wesley's Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,

Exalted for thee or brought low for thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Don't dismiss it as trivial. Actually take the time and do the task as directed.

The point it will make is priceless, no pun intended.

1. Take your calendar from this past week, beginning last Sunday, Oct. 23.
2. Make a tally list with the following categories:  
Work, Family, Friends, Faith, Self
3. Analyzing your calendar and the time you spent, place a tally mark in those categories (1 mark = 1 hour).

TUESDAY 11.1.11 Matthew 6:19-21

I wonder if your tally marks from Monday's devotion caused you to "take pause" just like mine did. Clearly where I THOUGHT I was spending my time is not where it was actually being spent.

Just when you thought this couldn't get more "personal" . . . And today's devotion is a little more challenging (and potentially time consuming) than yesterday's.

Take your checking account statement . . . For many of us it is online and we group our spending in categories.

Do the same tally with your spending as you did with your time.

Use these categories:

Living Expenses, Work, Friends/Others, Self, Faith

1 mark = \$100

WED. 11.2.11

Think about the things in your life:

- What will last forever?
- What will last at least for your lifetime?
- What will last a few short years, months, or days?

Based on your "tally marks" from your calendar and your checkbook is the time you spend "doing things" in congruence with things that are eternal?

What about your financial priorities? Are you spending money in places that will have eternal value or is it spent on things that one month from now you will barely remember it was spent, if you remember it at all.

How can you make changes that will have a kingdom impact?

**Prayer Concerns:**

Pat Benfield, recovering from surgery

**THURSDAY**

**11.3.11**

**2 Corinthians 4:18**

C.S. Lewis notes, "All that is not eternal is eternally useless."

So . . . That leaves us in charge of defining what is important and what matters.

The last thing we should do is live simply to try to "store up treasures in heaven" thinking that it is all about doing great things now in service to God so that in our lives to come we will receive great rewards.

Jesus said, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God" and we also recognize that Jesus taught the Kingdom of God is at hand.

If we take all those thoughts and reflect on them together we can see that we are called to live in the here and now as if everything we do has eternal impact not in the years to come but right now!

Every statement we make . . . Every action we take toward others . . . It all matters!

**How does this impact how you live each day?**

**How does this change how you spend your money?**

**Does this impact how you share your faith with others?**

**Questions for Reflection:**

*What is something you can "cut out" of your life so you can have more time for God?*

*Who are people in your life you say "I'll make more time for them" but yet LIFE gets in the way? What can you do to rectify that?*

*What are your "strengths?"*

*What is your "burning bush?"*

*What brings you joy?*

*What steals your joy?*

*What can you do to rid yourself of the joy killers to experience true joy?*

**FRIDAY**

**11.4.11**

**1 Corinthians 2:14**

We were created to be in relationship with our creator. There is a void in our lives that can only be filled by a real, engaged relationship with God.

Yet we seek to fill that void with other "things." Things like work, other people, and success." When we fill our lives with these things we find ourselves growing tired and weary - the things that have "filled" our heart end up resulting in worry, loss of sleep, stress and we can't fill our hearts with things that are "of and from God" because we are way too focused on other things.

Think of your heart like a garage. Typically the purpose of a garage is to park a car inside . . . But perhaps your garage is like ours . . . The Smith garage is a West Warehouse . . . You never know what is stored in there from week to week . . . And sometimes because I am too lazy to put the stuff away or carry it to the West storage unit I can't park my car in there because of the "stuff."

**What do you need to move out of your heart so you can focus more on God?**

**What is keeping you from moving those things out?**

**SATURDAY**

**11.5.11**

**John 8:12**

Jesus knew who he was and had no problems "owning" his identity. In his remarks in John, "I am the light of the world" he claims who he is, whose he is, and what he is all about. What would happen if each day of our lives we claimed the same things . . . WHO we are and WHOSE we are .

We need to remember to ask ourselves, OR remind ourselves, the WHO & WHOSE when we find ourselves wandering through life with no purpose or with a purpose that is focused on things that do not have eternal value.

This is a journey - a process - and although it would be very nice to have it "all figured out" right now . . . That is not reality. We will do a good job keeping the focus on eternal things for awhile and then we will find ourselves drifting back to the same old habits. Continually ask God to show you the way to keep the Focus on the things that will hold meaning for eternity.