

TODAY IS SUNDAY, JANUARY EIGHTH, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-THREE
AND TODAY MATTERS!

This is the day the LORD has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

**We over exaggerate yesterday. We overestimate tomorrow.
We underestimate today. - John Maxwell "Today Matters"**

We Over Exaggerate Yesterday

We talk about, "The good ole days!" Well, "The good ole days were never that good!"

You can't drive to your destination looking in the rear-view mirror of your car, nor can you move forward in life focusing on the past.

- Dwelling on the past can make us miss the **"new thing"** that God is doing in our lives.

Isaiah 43:18-19 "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. 19 See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

- Worshipping the past keeps us from experiencing what God wants to do today.

Nehushtan Numbers 21:5-9 ...they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!" 6 Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. 7 The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people. 8 The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." 9 So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

Someone saved the bronze snake and worshipped it and the past deliverance, making it an idol that needed to be destroyed. Hezekiah became King of Israel at age 25 and one of the first things he did was destroy the idols people were worshipping.

2 Kings 18:3 He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father David had done. 4 He removed the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke into pieces the bronze snake Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had been burning incense to it. (It was called Nehushtan.)

Today, people still tend to look to past experiences or methods rather than taking the time to find the "heartbeat" of God for this present moment.

Proper Response to the Past:

- Learn from the past. Those who forget past mistakes are doomed to repeat them.
- Confess mistakes of the past, receive forgiveness, and move on.
- Remember the good times and God's faithfulness and be thankful.

Today's Next Step: I will learn from the past, receive forgiveness for past mistakes, and thankfully remember God's goodness and faithfulness to me.

We Overestimate Tomorrow

James 4:13-15 (The Message) And now I have a word for you who brashly announce, “Today—at the latest, tomorrow—we’re off to such and such a city for the year. We’re going to start a business and make a lot of money.”

You don’t know the first thing about tomorrow. You’re nothing but a wisp of fog, catching a brief bit of sun before disappearing. **Instead, make it a habit to say, “If the Master wills it and we’re still alive, we’ll do this or that.”** (More than verbal, I think God is talking about the heart attitude.)

James 4:16-17 (NIV) As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil.

We are not promised tomorrow. We arrogantly think we are!

17 If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them. To him who knows to do good TODAY and puts it off until tomorrow, it is sin.

- Don’t put off until tomorrow what you can do today! (Unless you must) (People say) *“Tomorrow, I will get done what I didn’t do today!” “Tomorrow, things will be better.”*
- You cannot makeup tomorrow what you failed to pay for today. You can’t give 50% today and give 150% tomorrow to make up for it. (You only have 100%.)
- **“You can pay now and play later, or you can play now and pay later!”**
The only problem with playing now and paying later is that the cost just keeps going up.
- Most people suffer from destination disease! Success is a journey, one day at a time. *“What you do today will determine what you will be five years from now.” Bill Godwin*

Proper Response to the Tomorrow:

- It’s good to plan ahead so that, when God is gracious to us and extends our days, we can make the most out of them! But don’t miss what God is doing today!
 - Expectation is great, but you will never get what you expect unless you take action today!
 - Faith is good, but faith without works (today) is dead!

Today’s Next Step: I acknowledge that God holds my future. I will plan for tomorrow, but surrender to God’s will, plans, and purpose for my life.

We Underestimate Today

- Today, you need to seek the Kingdom of God, do the business of the Kingdom of God, and God will cause all the other things to fall into place.

Jesus said in **Matthew 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**

- Worrying about tomorrow wastes your time and energy, depletes your emotions, and doesn’t accomplish anything.

Matthew 6:34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Today has enough trouble, cares, and challenges to deal with.

But, today also has a sufficient number of opportunities.

Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- Don’t underestimate today! Don’t underestimate what God can do today!
Expect God to do something extraordinary today!

ILL: Oral Roberts Theme Song: “Something good is going to happen today!” “Expect a Miracle”

- Today don't miss Jesus' visitation!

In **Luke 19:41-44**, Jesus wept over Jerusalem's impending doom and downfall. **42 "How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes. 43 Before long your enemies will build ramparts against your walls and encircle you and close in on you from every side. 44 They will crush you into the ground, and your children with you. Your enemies will not leave a single stone in place, (Why the fall?) because you did not recognize it when God visited you.**

Jesus was among them; however, they were unaware and missed it. Don't miss what God is doing.

Today's Next Step: I will pray to recognize how God is working in my life today!

ILL. It is believed that on July 4th, 1776, King George III wrote in his journal: *"Nothing of any importance happened on this day."*

The opportunity of a lifetime must be grasped within the lifetime of the opportunity! Leonard Ravenhill
Don't let windows of opportunity or open doors shut on you before you recognize that they are open.

"Make every day your masterpiece." John Wooden

Today is the day to love your children.

Today is the day to mend a relationship.

Today is the day to obey the voice of the Lord.

Today is the day to love with unconditional love.

Today is the day to forgive those who have wronged you. Don't let the sun go down on your wrath.

Today is the day to be the person of God that you are destined to be.

Today is the day to walk in your destiny!

Today could be your defining moment! *"One touch from God changes everything." Billy Godwin*

2023 THEME "Today is the Day!"

2 Corinthians 6:1-2 New Living Translation As God's partners, we beg you not to accept this marvelous gift of God's kindness and then ignore it.

2 For God says, "At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you." Indeed, the "right time" is now. Today is the day of salvation.

Today is the day of salvation.

Today is the day of deliverance.

Today is the day of healing.

Today is the day to be set free.

Today is the day to forgive and be forgiven.

Today is a new day, the day for a fresh start.

Today is the day to start living the life that you are called to live.

Today is the first day of the rest of your life!

Today Matters!

Salvation Call: Today is the Day of your salvation.