




Vision: What is in the Blank?

“For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God . . .”
(Acts 13:36).

Cultures around the world have many differences. Languages vary. Ways of life and manner of dress change. However, every living person shares three similar elements. Each one has a past, present, and Lord willing, a future.

-  PAST: Where have you been?
-  PRESENT: Where are you now?
-  FUTURE: Where are you going?

Charles Kettering has said, “My interest is in the future because I am going to spend the rest of my life there.”

Rev. T. D. Jakes’ book, *Maximizing the Moment* was helpful and used in the preparation of this lesson. He mentioned that John F. Kennedy was born in 1917. He made his mark in life as the 35th president of the United States of America. President Kennedy is well remembered for many things, one being this statement:

“Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what can you do for your country.”

On November 22, 1963 an assassin killed Kennedy. His simple tombstone reads:

1917 – 1963

What are you putting in the blank
between the time of your entry
into this world and your
departure?

A lesson can be learned from this. Each person has a date of entry (birth date) into this world (birth date) and a date of departure from this world (death date). All that is between the two is the -----.

What we place in the blank determines the impact that we have between the two dates.

David was hoping to make an impact in life when he penned these words:

“Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come” (Psalms 71:18).

We were born for a reason. God has a plan, purpose, or vision for each one.

Donna Fisher in People Power says, “The life we desire deep in our being is the one we’re created to have, consistent with the way God made us.”

She quoted Basil Pennington who said, “It is your life’s work to learn to think and act in accord with who you are by creation.”

When Saul was knocked down on the road to Damascus, Jesus told him, “For I have appeared unto thee for this purpose” (Acts 26:16). Paul had an understanding of his purpose in life and ministry. Later, he concluded, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7).

How did Paul get this vision? He asked. After asking, “Who art thou, Lord?” (Acts 9:5) he then asked, “What wilt thou have me to do?” (Acts 9:6).

The Lord gives us a vision and then helps us to reach a successful conclusion.

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end” (Jeremiah 29:11).

**Discussion Points:
(It Is Time to Think)**

What is the name of an important historical personality in your country? _____

When was he born? _____

When did he die? _____

What are some things that this person accomplished in life? _____

What other Scriptures can you find that talk about how brief life is? _____

In the Scriptures you found, how is “life” described? _____

Psalms 90:10 mentions that “our years are threescore years and ten.” With this figure in mind, approximately how many years are remaining in your lifetime? _____

“LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am” (Psalm 39:4).

Study Questions

1. Quote the statement made by John F. Kennedy used in this lesson. _____

2. What three elements do we all have in common? _____

3. What three questions about your “life” will assist you in understanding God’s purpose and vision for you? _____

4. On a tombstone we notice “1960-1999.” What can we learn from this? _____

5. How was Paul (Saul) able to know the vision or purpose that the Lord had for his life? _____

Additional Notes

