I Am the Life

Jesus: John 14:6 I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Jesus does not just offer life, he IS life. Life is found in Christ.

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy: I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.

Q: Who here wants life to the full?

Q: But what is a full life? What is this life Jesus offers?

A full life is one in which we delight in God and God delights in us—it is one in which we are used by God to his glory.

It is a life with purpose, with mission, with value, with relationships, with the dignity that comes from being a child of the Creator.

Mark 10:23-31. We receive 100 fold in this life (and eternal life as a nice little bonus). But of course we must give up everything we have to obtain this. We need to be willing to give up control. We need to be willing to accept what God has to offer us.

What does this 100-fold look like? 100 cars in the driveway?

It is a life in which the things other people have is of value because it is used in service to God.

Sharing: What are some ways that God has given you life?

For me: I have been to 75 countries. I have helped more than 50 people to become Christians. I have written ten books. I have hundreds of friends all over the world. I have a beautiful wife and three beautiful children.

Some of these things I could have had even if I were not following Jesus, but would they have been as fulfilling?

Are you willing to trust God to provide for you or do you want to keep control to yourself?

Mark Wilkinson: How’s that working for you.

This is what is going on in Malachi.

Malachi 3:8 skip down to 3:13-14. What I gave you was not enough.

This is what is going on in Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 7:18-22 They will throw what they valued so much into the streets….

Ezekiel 16:4-19 I nursed you and washed you and made you beautiful.

But you trusted in your beauty.

v. 28-32 You will become the very thing you hate. This is what sin does!!!! It will “take away everything you have worked for. John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. Jesus came that we might have life!

1 Timothy 6:8 If we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

Deuteronomy 8:10-18

Example: Paul 1 Corinthians 9:1, 15-23 He gave up all his “rights” willingly so that he could have the life to the full Jesus wanted for him.

As a single, you want to be married. Do you believe that if God did not give you a spouse, he would give you something even better?

You desire a particular job. Do you believe that if God did not give you a job, he would give you something even better?

Hebrews 11:6 We must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Do you REALLY believe this?