

Anything — BUT — AVERAGE

PART 2: Now and Later

INTRODUCTION

One of the things that can keep us from living beyond average is the tension between now and later. We're tempted to live for the moment, to satisfy our desires instantly. But when we pursue instant gratification, the problems in our lives increase. Our finances blow up because we buy things before we can afford them. Our relationships are damaged because we don't put in the time to build solid foundations of trust and respect. Our careers suffer because we climb faster than our competence can sustain.

Jesus wants anything but average for you. But to be anything but average, you have to learn to stop living for now and begin living for later.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you tend to be most focused on the past, the present, or the future? How does that affect your finances, relationships, or career?
2. Talk about a time when you've seen someone live for now. What problems resulted from that person's choices?
3. Have you ever met someone who appeared to be completely at peace? What are some things about that person's life that made him or her seem anything but average?
4. Read Matthew 6:24–25. Do you agree that you can't serve both God and money (or material possessions)? Why or why not?
5. Where is your treasure currently devoted? How does that reflect who or what you're serving?
6. What is one area of your life in which you need to slow down, delay gratification, and focus on the future instead of the now? What is one thing you can do this week to begin to shift your focus? How can this group help you?

MOVING FORWARD

When you dream about the future, do you dream about cars, expensive electronics, and beach houses? Or do you dream about legacy, impact, influence, and eternal joy? Don't give up what is eternal for what is temporal. Don't give up what is unseen for what is seen. Don't give up what you want most for what you want now.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:21