**Today**

Proverbs 27:1

**Intro:** When I was in Junior High and High School I was in the band. Played saxophone - there was another guy who played sax and was a year ahead of me, so through 4 of those years we sat side by side every day playing music together.

We were also on the swim team together - we were in FCA together - we did various ministries together during that time. We became good friends.

Later on, he married a girl who was also in this church during my elementary years - her name was Mona - some of you may remember her parents - Ireland and Patty McWhorter. My friend’s name is Rex White.

So - I’ve known these people nearly my entire life.

One Sunday night in 2004 I received a phone call - Rex and his daughters had gone sledding in a hilly neighborhood near Greentown….

The visitation was the following Thursday night. Greentown’s population is about 2500 - 2200 came to the visitation. It lasted to 1 a.m.

Rex and Mona stood witnessed about the forgiveness and love of Jesus to everyone who came through that line - including the driver of the truck.

The funeral was on Friday - it was a 2 hr & 15 minute celebration -

“We Will Dance”

“Shout to the Lord”

5 or 6 people walked to the front at the end of the service to give their lives to the Lord.

Proverbs 27:1 - Don’t brag about tomorrow,

since you don’t know what the day will bring.

**Big Idea: There are 4 things Jesus wants you to do today - and every day - if He gives you another day.**

**> He wants us to enjoy today.**

Psalm 118:24 - This is the day the Lord has made.

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

God has given us life to enjoy!

Trees, birds, dogs, cats, water, creeks, streams, oceans …

Fun! Relationships! Friends! Family - Children - games - sports - parents - the Family of God!

Jesus was a man of joy!

John 15:11 - I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!

Luke 10:21 - At that same time Jesus was filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit…

At the Triumphal Entry … people were rejoicing … children were dancing, singing, shouting, praising - even the disciples were joining in!

Jesus said the Kingdom of Heaven is like a wedding banquet …

Matthew 18:1-4 - About that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?”

Jesus called a little child to him and put the child among them. Then he said, “I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.”

Luke 18:15-17 - One day some parents brought their little children to Jesus so he could touch and bless them. But when the disciples saw this, they scolded the parents for bothering him.

Then Jesus called for the children and said to the disciples, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn’t receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.”

Could Jesus have put a frog in the knapsack of one of His disciples?

Jesus wants you to ENJOY TODAY!

**> Jesus wants us to draw close to Him today.**

Psalm 95:6-8 - Come, let us worship and bow down.

Let us kneel before the Lord our maker,

for he is our God.

We are the people he watches over,

the flock under his care.

If only you would listen to his voice today!

The Lord says, “Don’t harden your hearts as Israel did at Meribah,

as they did at Massah in the wilderness.”

James 4:8 - Come close to God, and God will come close to you…

What are you doing today if you are not drawing near to Him?

How many days can you go without drawing close to Him - cultivating your relationship with Him?

What will tomorrow be like if you don’t draw near Him today?

What if there is no tomorrow, and you’ve gone days without drawing near to Him?

There may be no tomorrow. He wants you to draw near to Him today!

**> Today - Jesus wants us to care about someone today.**

There are needy people all around us! Are we using the resources God has given us to meet people’s needs?

We’ve done it at Christmas … there are needs all year ‘round - all around us.

Poor - in need of food and clothes and medical care - we have a Food Pantry Small Group that meets needs - if you are not a present part of the group, you can help by providing some supplies - or designating an offering above your tithes for Benevolence.

People you work with -

* Financial help
* Broken relationships
* Hurting deeply

Can we care enough to meet needs?

When Jesus saw a blind man …

* Deaf man …
* Leper …
* Widow with a dead son …

What Jesus did was not just about healing -

* Fed 5000
* Fed 4000

He saw people’s needs and moved to meet their needs -

* the little boy saw the need -
* The early Christians’ saw needs …

Acts 2 & 4 - They pooled their resources together so people who had needs would be provided for.

Acts 6 - They appointed leaders to make sure that widows would be taken care of.

1st & 2nd Corinthians Paul encouraged the Christians in Corinth to give in an offering for Jewish Christians who were starving in Judea.

James 2:14-18 - What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, “Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well”—but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?

So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

Now someone may argue, “Some people have faith; others have good deeds.” But I say, “How can you show me your faith if you don’t have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds.”

Proverbs 14:21 - It is a sin to belittle one’s neighbor;

blessed are those who help the poor.

Proverbs 14:31 - Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker,

but helping the poor honors him.

1st John 3:17 - If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God’s love be in that person?

Proverbs 19:17 - If you help the poor, you are lending to the Lord—

and he will repay you!

We may not have tomorrow -

Someone in need may not have tomorrow - We need to meet a need today!

Somebody is having their electricity turned off -

* Someone is having their gas shut down -
* Someone is seeing their marriage break up -
* Someone is having bills come due they can’t pay -

We have today - today to do the work of the Kingdom - today to meet needs - today to care about someone.

**> Today - Jesus wants us to witness to someone today.**

2nd Corinthians 6:2 - 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 may be someone’s last opportunity to hear the Good News about Jesus.

Accidents, heart attacks, unbelievable circumstances take place every day. Lives to into eternity.

Several years ago I got a phone call at 10 a.m. on a Saturday morning …

My cousin Doug …

Another time I got a phone call at 1:30 a.m. - Jr. Johnson …

These events happen over and over again - it will happen today to someone, somewhere -

Jesus is our example -

Luke 23:43 - And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Luke 15:6-7 - When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’ In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven’t strayed away!

Luke 15:9-10 - And when she finds it, she will call in her friends and neighbors and say, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost coin.’ In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God’s angels when even one sinner repents.”

Luke 15:32 - We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!’”

Jesus wants us to witness to someone today. Someone’s soul hangs in the balance today.

Rex & Mona stood by the casket of their 8 year old daughter for hours - never sat down - they looked everyone in the eye and witnessed to them about the love of Jesus.

The little girl’s grandfather, Ireland McWhorter - told at least 150 people, “You must have a personal relationship with Jesus.”

Then he sang and danced before the casket - rejoicing that his granddaughter was in heaven and he has the assurance that his family has received God’s forgiveness and will be together with her someday - maybe today!

Proverbs 27:1 - Don’t brag about tomorrow,

since you don’t know what the day will bring.

Do you realize how precious today is? There will never be another day like today … If you are given tomorrow … if you are given this year …

* Jesus wants us to enjoy today.
* Jesus wants us to draw close to Him today.
* Jesus wants us to care about someone today.
* Jesus wants us to witness to someone today.

The little girl’s grandmother - Patty … just a few nights before the sledding accident - “Mamaw, would you sit here and read this with me?”

Patty would never get that chance again …

Make today count. Make every day count. Any day could be your last day-

* To enjoy God’s blessings and your family
* To cultivate your relationship with God
* To care and how Gods’ love to someone in need
* To witness to someone who is dying without Jesus.

Today.