

Lifelines

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Topic: Purposed Outcomes

Where're You Going?

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Most of us at some point have been asked the question: "Where're you going?" Normally it comes up in the context of travel, or making a journey. It is a common question, yet filled with a world of possible responses.

Where were you on the morning of 9/11/2001? What were your plans for the day? Where were you going? I wonder how many people working in the World Trade Center in New York had plans for where they were going that evening but never made it. Were they planning to meet God that day?

My wife and I were living in Szeged, Hungary. It was 3 PM in Szeged. I was working on my computer when a Hungarian friend called to tell me to turn on CNN International because something horrendous was happening in America. I ran downstairs to see videos of that awful day: an airplane-shaped hole in the side of a building, with smoke and fire boiling out of it. Then another building, the towers falling, then Pentagon hit, and the plunge of death in Shanksville, PA.

The phone began to ring as many Hungarian friends called to give prayers and condolences. The State Department warned all Americans in Europe to shelter in place, avoid going out, and avoid speaking English in public. America was under attack. And so began the rescues, the stories of the bravery and heroism of first responders and ordinary citizens.

I sat in my living room and cried; so proud to be an American. Proud of the people who instead of cowering in fear of the enemy, rose up to reveal that Americans are really kind people, but when attacked they will not be bullied or back down. It was a day that changed the whole trajectory of our society for several years to come.

A large question hangs over our heads today, as our streets are filled with people burning our flag, and terrorizing our citizens. Is it time to shout out: "Hey, America! Everybody's going somewhere. Where are you going?"

Are we going to reject the principles of freedom that made America great? Are we going to be free citizens or allow a government that squashes our values, rights and opinions? Are we going to become hate-filled bullies who endorse or justify terrorism or bigotry? Or are we going to be strong active leaders and reject the anti-human rhetoric we hear today? Are we going to surrender our entire existence and our freedom into the hands of others to choose our future? This country has some serious decisions to make. We must pay attention to the lessons of history.

Therefore, each of us have important decisions to make. America is designed to be a government "of the people, by the people and for the people." It is not designed for a government to decide what it wants and force people to obey. Rather, we decide at elections where this country is to go. We decide what the country's values will be, and the direction the country will take. We do this at every level of government, at every election. If we don't stand up to make the choice, nature hates a vacuum, so others will make those choices in our place.

I loved a statement I heard this week in a TV monolog. The statement was "Everybody's going somewhere!" The decisions we make today move us to where we decide to go. Everybody's going somewhere. Where are you going? If you don't know, how will you arrive there? Where do you

want your life to be ten years from now? America is a land of dreams, because people dreamed good dreams and stayed focused to achieve them together.

Jesus, in John 14:6 (NJB), said: “I am the Way; I am Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.” The Way to God is always through Jesus. The Truth is always found in and through Jesus. The Life that God gives us is abundant, and overflowing with blessings and goodness. Whom Jesus sets free (cf. John 8:31-32, 36), will be free indeed! God wants us to come to Jesus, live in Him, live in His freedom, and share His life and goodness with others.

Therefore part of the answer to “Where’re you going?” should be “to Jesus, with Jesus, and in His freedom.” Living God’s values with God, and arriving in the Father’s house, should guide the trajectory for all of our other courses of action. Everybody is going somewhere? Where are you going?

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