

Copyright June 27, 2021. Geist Christian Church. All Rights Reserved.

Title: Life Comes at You Fast: What Really Matters?

Preaching: Danny Gulden, Lead Pastor, Promise Road Campus

Text: [1 Chronicles](#)

E-mail: [Danny Gulden](#)

[Watch the service.](#)



Today we are concluding a worship series called Life Comes at You Fast, using the life of David as our guide looking at different stages of life. We've looked at childhood, teenage years, adulthood, and today we are looking at older adulthood. Each stage of life holds possibilities for us, each stage of life is a gift from God, and each stage of life

teaches us many things.

Fred Craddock was a wonderful preacher, teacher, and storyteller and he tells the story of visiting his niece's family. The family has adopted a beautiful, retired racing greyhound, a dog whose early life was spent chasing a mechanical rabbit around a track. After these dogs retire from racing, they are adopted by people as pets and are wonderful dogs and companions. Fred finds himself alone in the den with the greyhound and so he imagines a conversation he would have with the dog to get to know him better.

Uh, are you still racing any?"

"No, no, no, I don't race anymore."

I said, "Do you miss the glitter and excitement of the track?"

He said, "No, no."

I said, "Well, what's the matter? You got too old?"

"No, no, I still had some race in me."

"Well, did you not win?"

He said, "I won over a million dollars for my owner."

"Then what was it, bad treatment?"

"Oh, no, they treated us royally when we were racing."

I said, "Then what? Did you get injured?"

He said, "No, no, no."

I said, "Then what?"

And he said, "I quit."

"You quit?"

"Yeah, that's what I said. I quit."

I said, "Why did you quit?"

And he said, "I discovered that what I was chasing was not a real rabbit. And I quit." He looked at me and said, "All that running, running, running, and what I was chasing, not even real."

Do you ever feel like what you spend your time chasing isn't real?

The stage of life that is older adulthood is one where I suspect we find a certain level of wisdom, gleaned from years of experience. It's the time in life where one might say, "if I had only known that back when." Perspective gleaned from experience is powerful. It often feels like we spend most of our lives running, running, and more running and chasing, chasing, and chasing, only to discover that what we weren't running after was even real. When we discover what truly matters in life, then we can really begin to live.

As his life begins to draw to a close, King David has one more thing he feels called to do, and in many ways, his entire life has led up to this moment. He takes up an offering...okay stick with me here. David is preparing to hand the role of king over to his son Solomon, but in his last act as king, he wants to build a temple for the Lord God, a place for God to dwell among the people. We believe that David had amassed a great deal of personal wealth and he knows exactly what he wants to do with it. Here is what the text says:

"What's more, because of my delight in my God's temple, I have dedicated my own private treasure of gold and silver to my God's temple, in addition to all that I've provided for the holy temple; who else then, will volunteer, dedicating themselves to the Lord today?" (1 Chronicles 29:3,5b)

David, one who spent a good portion of his adulthood, living in a self-centered manner, considering only what he wanted and what would benefit him, in a way has come full circle. He is now dedicating himself and his resources to the Lord's work and inviting others to do the same.

We are all, in one way or another, looking for the secret of life. We are all looking, in one way or another, looking for what really matters in life. We spend a lot of time and money trying to find our best life now. I read this week that the self-help industry is expected to be a \$13,2 billion industry in 2022. What if we could learn now what is really important?

A palliative care nurse who spent a lot of time with those who were dying was asked what the number one regret people had at the end of their lives and it was this

I wish I had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me.

For those who are seeking to follow Jesus, we might say that I want to have the courage to live a life that is true to God's calling on my life, not the life others expected of me.

David was an accomplished person, leader, a gifted writer, and we recognize him as one of the great figures of the faith. As I mentioned last week, we still speak of Jerusalem as David's royal city and the terms David and Goliath are commonly used today.

Even with all of this, perhaps David's greatest teaching and contribution to people of faith comes at the end of his life, in taking up this offering to build the temple, giving his life so that the Lord would have a place to dwell among the people.

Here is what we are told happens because of David's actions

"Anyone who had precious stones donated them to the treasury of the Lord's temple under the care of Jehiel the Gershonite. The people rejoiced at this response because they had presented their offerings to the Lord so willingly and wholeheartedly, King David also rejoiced greatly. Then David blessed the Lord before the whole assembly: Blessed are you, Lord. God of our ancestor Israel, forever and always. To you, Lord, belongs greatness and power, honor, splendor, and majesty, because everything in heaven and on earth belongs to you. Who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly? Since everything comes from you, we have given that which comes from your own hand." (1 Chronicles 29:8-11a,14)

David uses his influence, his resources, all that he is and has to do something for God. To do something for others. And in doing so, he inspires others to do the same.

Is what you are chasing not real? My guess is that is one of the gifts of the older adulthood period in life, is that we come to terms with what matters. We discover that to find our true lives and true selves, we don't look inward, but we look outward. We see that reflected in David's life, who used his older adulthood years to build a temple for God. He spent his time not doing for himself but doing for God.

The measure of our life is not made through what we do for ourselves, rather it is what we do for others.

The measure of our life is not made through what we accumulate for ourselves, rather it is measured through what we give away to others.

Because in doing for others, in giving away for others, we are doing for God, and we are giving away for God.

We have 21 middle school students and their adult leaders on a mission trip this week. The gift they are receiving this week is that they are not waiting until their later years to learn what matters. They are serving others; they are giving away to others. And in doing so, not only will others be changed, so will they. They are learning what really matters.

As a follower of Jesus, a life lived true to ourselves, is a life lived true to God's call upon our lives.

Parker Palmer talks about the time he was having a life crisis and decided to take part in the Outward-Bound wilderness program. One of the challenges he faced while being a part of that program was being backed up to a cliff that was 110 feet off the ground. They tied a rope to his waist and was told to back down the cliff. He asked how he was supposed to do this, and the instructor simply said to him, "Go." So, he went to the first ledge down and banged into this ledge with considerable force. The instructor looked down at him and said, "I don't think you quite have it yet."

"The only way to do this is to lean back as far as you can because you have to get your feet at the right angles to the rock face so you will have pressure on them."

Palmer says, I knew he was wrong, I knew the right way was to stay as close to the ledge and hug the mountain as tightly as possible. So, he tried again, and BOOM he hit the ledge. Not quite as hard but he hit it again.

The instructor looked down and Palmer asked him what he should do next. The instructor said, "it's about time I shared with you the motto of this program.

If you can't get out of it, get into it.

The best way forward is to get into it. The good news is that we can start from any station in life, getting into what really matters. Serving others, serving God.

The Gospel of John begins with similar words-

"The word became flesh and made his home among us John 1:14a (CEB)
God, in Jesus, comes to be with us, to dwell with us. To help us understand that through God's presence we can see what is real. We can see what really matters. We can experience true life.

The people presented their offerings wholeheartedly and willingly. Of all the accomplishments and milestones of David's life, this is the greatest. Serving others, serving God, and inspiring others to do the same. He finally figured out what really matters.

Now it's our turn. I close today with these words and this question from the poet Mary Oliver:

Tell me, what is it you plan to do.
With your one wild and precious life?

Let Us Pray.