



December 28, 2008

## It's A Wonderful Life

(Why the choices you're making today matter forever)

(SERIES: Surviving Christmas: 05 of 05)  
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### I am **who** God says I am.

"What is the price of five sparrows? A couple of pennies? Not much more than that. Yet God does not forget a single one of them. And he knows the number of hairs on your head! **Never fear, you are far more valuable to him than a whole flock of sparrows.**" (Luke 12:6-7)

### I am **whose** God says I am.

"And I assure you of this: I, the Messiah, will publicly honor you in the presence of God's angels ***if you publicly acknowledge me here on earth as your Friend.*** But I will deny before the angels those who deny me here among men ." (Luke 12:8-9)

### I am **worth what** God was willing to pay.

" . . . without shedding of blood is no remission." (Hebrews 9:22 KJV)

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who **for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame,** and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." (Hebrews 12:2-3 NIV)

### I **have** what God says I have.

"What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, ***graciously give us all things?***" (Romans 8:31-32 NIV)

### I **can do** what God says I can do.

"I'm glad in God, far happier than you would ever guess—happy that you're again showing such strong concern for me. Not that you ever quit praying and thinking about me. You just had no chance to show it. Actually, I don't have a sense of needing anything personally. I've learned by now to be quite content whatever my circumstances. I'm just as happy with little as with much, with much as with little. ***I've found the recipe for being happy whether full or hungry, hands full or hands empty.*** **Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am.** . . ." (Philippians 4:12-13 MSG)

### I **must do** what God says I must do.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And **he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.**" (2 Corinthians 5:17-19 NIV)

## Never forget

### Every life has a **destiny**.

" . . . you have come to royal position **for such a time as this?**" (Esther 4:14 NIV)

### Every crisis has an **unlikely hero**.

"He looked David over and saw that he was only a boy, ruddy and handsome, and he despised him. He said to David, '***Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?***' And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 'Come here,' he said, 'and I'll give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!'" (1 Samuel 17:42-44 NIV)

### No man is a failure who **makes peace among friends**.