

Will it Matter in 100 Years?

Those of you who have children know that children ask for things they really don't need.

One day, when my daughter was about 6, she and I were window shopping. And, of course, our wanderings ended up in the toy section. And what do little girls like best? Of course, dolls! She saw a doll that she couldn't live without. Now she had at least 6 dolls, teddy-bears, and an assortment of other cuddly things in her room and didn't really need anymore. What should I do? How do I tell her she doesn't need another doll, no matter how cute and cuddly it is? I felt she was old enough to begin to making this kind of decision herself, but how to get a child, or anyone else for that matter, to realize they don't need every appealing thing they see? I was in a real quandary. I didn't want to just say "NO!" and move on, I wanted to give her a logical reason why she didn't need that doll. So I sent up a little prayer for help. And the answer came to me, "Ask her if she thinks she will still feel the same way after she has the doll for 3 or 6 months." So I did. She thought for a while, and with a sober face, said, "No, I guess she will become just like all of my other dolls." And I said, "Thank you, Lord!" Then I answered her, "If it won't matter in 6 months, should it matter now?" And she replied, "No, I guess not." I then realized that almost everything in life can be handled this way. In other words, if it won't matter in 6 months or a year or a hundred years why should it matter now? Now you can't use this logic for everything, of course, but it can really simplify life.

Here's how it can work. When you're shopping and you see an expensive suit/dress you think you can't do without, ask yourself the question, "If I get this will it matter in a 100 years?" "Will it matter in one year?" Or if you see an expensive vehicle and you think how much it will do for your image, ask yourself "Will it matter in a 100 years?" Along with curbing our extravagant shopping habits, there are other times when this question can help us with our focus. If you are having a disagreement with someone, ask yourself, "Will it matter in a 100 years?" Usually the answer will be, "No, it won't." If it won't matter in a 100 years, why should it matter now?

If you are spending the majority of your time earning money with the objective of getting rich, and not spending meaningful time with your family and God, ask yourself the question, "Will it matter in a 100 years?"

We also need to ask "What will matter in a 1,000 years?" If I spend 1 to 2 hours a day with God, will it matter in a 100 years? Yes, it will matter for all eternity! If you spend quality time with your family, will it matter in a 100 years? Of course. If you spend time helping others with their needs, will that matter in a 100 years? I think you get the picture. We need to spend our time and energy on things that will matter a 100 years, 10,000 years, and for eternity. What we think is so important today may be very insignificant in comparison with eternity. And it is eternity that should matter, not today!

God Bless

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