

Acts: The Church on Earth

Acts 15:22 “Do Well”

Acts Praxeis

- James speaks up
- burdens to keep the law
- deep discussion
- Spiritual conclusion

Doing well

Matthew 25:31-46

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

"All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides [his] sheep from the goats.

"And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

"Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;

'I [was] naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

"Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed [You], or thirsty and give [You] drink?

'When did we see You a stranger and take [You] in, or naked and clothe [You]?

'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

"And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did [it] to one of the least of these My brethren, you did [it] to Me.'

"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

'for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink;

'I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'

"Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'

"Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do [it] to one of the least of these, you did not do [it] to Me.'

"And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

The righteous do well without trying or intending to sometimes. It becomes a part of our nature. It's not always effortless or without thought, though.

Gal 6:10 NKJV - Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Doing well requires the opportunity. But we should seek out that opportunity.

Sometimes that opportunity is right in front of us.

Doing well growing up: school, sports, behavior at home

- What did you think you wanted to be when you grew up? Doing well at life?
- As you get older, are the standards changing? Being a millionaire now down to just having half a million?
- Owning your own business now just being content in a cubicle?
- Big dreams replaced by little dreams?
- Being highly successful to just getting by?

What does God dream for you? Will his will be done in our lives and be done well?

Well done food - "just walk it through a warm room"

Revelation 3:14-22

"And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.

"So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

"Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'--and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked--

"I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, [that] the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

"To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." ' "

Doing well takes effort. Doing well takes time. Doing well takes help. Doing well is also subjective to what/whom we are doing well for. What or who the standard is.

Psa 84:10 NKJV - For a day in Your courts [is] better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Dream

Seek to be the doorkeeper. The lowly position.

Last first, first last

Is the greeter the doorkeeper? Perhaps the evangelist? Perhaps the pastor/teacher?

The Christian life is not ladder of accomplishment and promotion, but a life of learning to bow down lower and lower in the presence of Jesus.

2Sa 6:11-22 NKJV - The ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite three months. And the LORD blessed Obed-Edom and all his household. Now it was told King David, saying, "The LORD has blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that [belongs] to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with gladness. And so it was, when those bearing the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, that he sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep. Then David danced before the LORD with all [his] might; and David [was] wearing a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet. Now as the ark of the LORD came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart. So they brought the ark of the LORD, and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. And when David had finished offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts. Then he distributed among all the people, among the whole multitude of Israel, both the women and the men, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece [of meat], and a cake of raisins. So all the people departed, everyone to his house. Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, "How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!" So David said to Michal, "[It was] before the LORD, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel. Therefore I will play [music] before the LORD. "And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor."

In this world we seek more dignity for ourselves - more clothes, more wealth, more fame, more money, more power, more possessions - and less work...retiring early.

But I don't see the apostles, the disciples retiring. I see them serving God until death.
Men like Chuck Smith, Billy Graham, Dr. Stanley

Doing well means finishing well.

1Co 9:24-27 NKJV - Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain [it]. And everyone who competes [for the prize] is temperate in all things. Now they [do it] to obtain a perishable crown, but we [for] an imperishable [crown]. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as [one who] beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring [it] into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

Luk 14:10-11 NKJV - "But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher.' Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. "For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Our ideas of greatness are not the same as Jesus'

22-29

The Epistle to the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia

leading men among the brethren

- Paul
- Barnabas
- Judas/Barsabas
- Silas

leaders aren't really "chosen"

- david in the fields with the flocks

"cream rises to the top"

Psalm 75:6-7

**For exaltation [comes] neither from the east Nor from the west nor from the south.
But God [is] the Judge: He puts down one, And exalts another.**

1 Timothy 5:22

Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure.

1 Timothy 3:10

But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being [found] blameless.

The guys doing the work are the leaders.

opposite of the world. Leaders tend to be out on the golf course.

80/20 rule

Doing well is being a true leader, where the title doesn't matter.

the scourge of "assistant pastor pointing"

like the union jobsite

delegation is one thing, pawning off responsibility is another

pleased the church to send them - what a great deal to be pleased with other believers and want to support them as they support others

- parachurch ministries
- missionaries
- youth
- friends
- etc

Does it please us to promote others? bless others? encourage or equip others? or do we just want to get "ahead" in ministry? life? financially? physically?

kids idea of always being stuck somewhere

Doing well is putting others first.

24

some went out from us...troubled you with words

so often has been the case

- rumors
- backbiting
- false doctrine

just because they claim the name, have the degree or decree

i'm shocked sometimes at what i hear on the radio/tv or even out of certain circles

been around some people who get hung up on pet doctrine (the unessentials or even personal convictions) - how they put that trip on people because they were in "leadership" - then they are confronted for it and how quickly they turn from sheep to wolf- biting and devouring and trying to take down anyone in their way

Video of televangelist confronted about jet and lifestyle

Doing well is caring for the sheep.

WE GAVE NO SUCH COMMANDMENT

making things up

claiming false authority

i come to you in the name of the Lord - David

Show me your leadership badge by your behavior and the fruits from it - born to God
inspect the fruit guys!

Doing well means knowing, keeping and teaching the commands of God...with humility.

Wanting to help and encourage others in them.

Not to tear them down by them.

25

it seemed good to us

same word as pleased in v22

- to be of opinion, think, suppose
- to seem, to be accounted, reputed
- it seems to me
- I think, judge: thus in question
- it seems good to, pleased me, I determined

supreme court, interpreting the law, executive branch (pres) executes the law, carries it out,

congress writes the law

the law governs the land

it seemed good to send chosen men

we don't always need a direct word from the Lord

sometimes when it seems good, we just need to do it

- homeless guy needs a sandwich and a bible

- extra offering in the plate for the travelling ministry
- befriend someone for their sake
- taking out the trash (more Holy Spirit to do the dishes than the gospel!)

Again, Galatians 6:10...as we have the opportunity

Sometimes we get so caught up in what is right and wrong that we fail to do the good. I think usually it's because we don't want to do it so we elevate the argument in our minds. Like the pharisee and the scribe, we pass on to the other side with our head in the clouds.

Doing well is usually the obvious answer.

A friend is going to do ministry, why would you not go with them?

We tend to cling to our ideas of what is good for us instead of what the Bible commands

We cling to our successes in life (good job, good life, etc) when we should be abandoning them

Doing well requires throwing out our plans, our accomplishments and things where we've done well, but done it on our own, not led by the Spirit

Phil 3:8

Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

sometimes we just need to DO the WELL (good)

James 4:17

Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do [it], to him it is sin.

Just gotta do it!

Sometimes we pray and pray, and just have to do it

26

men who have risked their lives for the name of Jesus

what have we risked? if not physical life, how about popularity? friendship? personal gain?

28

seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us

If it seems good to God to send us, does it not seem good to us to go?

Isaiah 6:8-9...

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying:

“Whom shall I send,

And who will go for Us?”

Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”

And He said, “Go, and tell this people...

If God considers it good, it should be good to us!

“rise peter, kill and eat...it’s clean!”

sometimes what God considers good, says it good, shows us is good, takes a long time to trickle down through the ranks

new “movements’ - Pastor Chuck

wineskins (might be kind of foreign to us)

Matthew 9:14-17

Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?”

And Jesus said to them, “Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.

“No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and the tear is made worse.

“Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.”

like skinny jeans on an old guy - old guys trying to be hip

you can just tell it doesn’t fit - old guys, it’s ok to be old - i’m almost there lol

Watch the new believers. Watch the younger generation.

If a church is just old people, it’s probably dying, in more ways than one.

new waves in new generations - passing the torch

28 - no greater burden than these NECESSARY things

some things are necessary

not a free-for-all

IF you keep yourself from these you will do well

offered to idols,
 from blood,
 from things strangled,
 and from sexual immorality

Colossians 2:16-23

So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a [j]festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the [k]substance is of Christ. 18 Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has [l]not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, 19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.

20 [m]Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations— 21 “Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,” 22 which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men? 23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and [n]neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

Doing well is your life lived by the Spirit and instructed by the scriptures

It is larger, deeper, and freer than living by some law

IF YOU THEN YOU

Joshua 24:14-15

"Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! "And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that [were] on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

There is personal responsibility in our sanctification.

we need to choose what choices we make.

Still have free will, except it is truly free now, to truly choose the good

choosing between good and bad before being saved and being full of the Holy Spirit - sometimes the bad choice was good

Now that we can truly see what is Good, we can truly choose it - but it does require effort

A PROMISE YOU WILL DO WELL

Doing well and doing good are a no brainer. I think we ALL want to DO WELL.

life is hard, and making the right decision can be hard, but the more I'm walking through life with God, the more I'm realizing that the right answers can be pretty obvious sometimes, i just don't want to do them - or rather, I think I can do things another way and still get the right result - I can still get rich by spending all my money, i can still get fit but eat whatever I want, etc. It doesn't work that way. Sometimes life is a simple equation, 2+2 always = 4.

**but we must choose the well that God says is well
God's word is serious when it says what it says
Marriage, purity, money, etc.**

If we obey God's word, and we still end up in troubles, well, then at least we know it's totally on God to get us out because we're only in that trouble because He's allowed it-brought us to it, not us being in a mess because we made the mess - and a lot of times God wants us to clean up the mess we've made (although He'll always help us)

Doing well

even if you've failed, you can still do well again

Doing well requires the Holy Spirit

Doing well requires removal of burdens

Doing well requires holy direction and holy dedication

Do well.

The Freedom to Do well

God is pleased with you already. You don't need to do well to please him.

Do well because he's already pleased with the work finished at the cross.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Repeat Matthew 25

"And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

"Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:'

