

1 No Regrets

2 No Regrets

- Ron Wayne was one of the founders of Apple, along with Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak.
- He helped to steer the computer company in its early days, and had a hand in designing the famous Apple logo.
- Wayne owned 10 percent of the company, while Jobs and Wozniak each owned 45 percent.
- But Wayne decided to hand back his stake, fearing that he would be liable for a portion of a \$15,000 loan if the company went under.

3 No Regrets

- Apple succeeded, of course, and if Wayne had held on to his stake it would now be worth more than \$37 billion.
- Does he have any regrets?
- Surprisingly, no. “I made my decision on the information I had at the time,” he tells James Thomson of SmartCompany.
- “I’ve got my health, my family and integrity -- and that is the best fortune you could ask for.”

4 The Rich Man & Lazarus

- Jesus tells the story of a rich man who was “dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted every day” (Luke 16:19). The man dies, is buried and finds himself in Hades being tormented (vv. 22–23).
- Does he have any regrets? Jesus implies that he does.
- But none of his regrets involves poor business decisions or missed opportunities to make money.
- He does not say, “I should have held on to my 10 percent stake in that apple orchard!”

5 Common Regrets

- A nurse specializing in care of the terminally ill has recorded the most common regrets of the dying, and there’s no mention of missed business deals.
- No regrets about skipped bungee jumping opportunities or even about marriage -- despite the many jokes that link regret to the choice of a mate.
- Speaking of marriage jokes . . .
 - According to one, a woman inserts an ad in the classifieds: “Husband wanted.” Next day, she receives a hundred letters.
 - They all say the same thing: “You can have mine.”

6 The Top 5 Regrets

- I wish that I had let myself be happier.

- Many had lived their lives so comfortably and conservatively that they never allowed themselves to do something fun, daring, or even a bit silly.
- I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends.
 - Often they would not truly realize the full benefits of old friends until their dying weeks and it was not always possible to track them down.
 - Many had become so caught up in their own lives that they had let golden friendships slip by over the years.
 - There were many deep regrets about not giving friendships the time and effort that they deserved.
 - Everyone misses their friends when they are dying.

7 The Top 5 Regrets

- I wish I'd had the courage to express my feelings.
 - Many people suppress their feelings in order to keep peace with others.
 - As a result, they settled for a mediocre existence and never become who they were truly capable of becoming.
 - Many developed illnesses relating to the bitterness and resentment they carried as a result.
- I wish I hadn't worked so hard.
 - This came from every male patient.
 - They missed their children's youth and their partner's companionship.
 - Women also spoke of this regret, but as most were from an older generation, many of the female patients had not been breadwinners.
 - All of the men I nursed deeply regretted spending so much of their lives on the treadmill of a work existence

8 The Biggest Regret!

- So what is the number one big regret, discovered by nurse Bronnie Ware and reported in The Guardian (February 1, 2012) . . .
- You're right, it was being nicer to their Pastor!!!
- I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me.
 - This is the most common regret of all.
 - "Most people had not honored even a half of their dreams," says Ware, "and had to die knowing that it was due to choices they had made, or not made."

9 Summary

10 Lazarus

- What would you regret, if this were your last day on the earth?

- Jesus tells us that the rich man was not alone in his life and his death.
- At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. (Luke 16:20–21 NIV)
- Lazarus may have had some regrets, but they probably did not include number 5: I wish that I had let myself be happier.
- The life of Lazarus was, in the words of philosopher Thomas Hobbes, "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short"

11 Lazarus

- For Lazarus, happiness was not a choice. It was a scrap from the rich man's table, which never came.
- Jesus tells us that "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side." (Luke 16:22–23 NIV)
- And there, in Hell, we begin to get a sense of the rich man's regrets.

12 The Rich Man's Regrets

- I wish that I hadn't been so self-centered.
 - The poor man Lazarus was lying at his gate, covered with sores and the rich man stepped over or around him each time he left his home.
 - Every single day, the rich man missed a chance to help Lazarus by simply giving him the leftovers from his table.
- I wish that I had listened to God's Word (Moses and the prophets).
 - The rich man realizes in death that he had not paid attention to the word of God as it came through Moses, "you shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18).
 - He had not heeded the prophet Isaiah, who commanded, "share your bread with the hungry ... bring the homeless poor into your house" (Isaiah 58:7).

13 The Rich Man's Regrets

- I wish I'd had the courage to live a life of true integrity and keep away from those who love to compromise.
 - Every day, the rich man ignored poor Lazarus, fully aware of the teachings of Moses and the prophets.
 - But he didn't have the courage to live a life of integrity, one in which his actions were in line with what he observed and what he believed.

14 The Rich Man & the Poor

- The rich man saw the poor man and knew that Moses and the prophets commanded him to help. But he did not.

- The rich man might have fallen into the trap set by people who blamed Lazarus for his poverty, insisting that he must be lazy or morally deficient.
- The truth of the matter is many people are poor because of bad choices, stubborn attitudes, and dysfunctional patterns of living.
- And we at Ekklesia have been taken advantage of by those who play on our sympathies and mooch off our good will.
- But this doesn't mean we close our hearts and stop helping people in need. We just have to do our homework.

15 Guidelines

- Do help people in real need and contact the church, if in doubt.
- Support Ekklesia's Benevolence Fund. Money in this fund directly goes to people whom we believe need temporal assistance.
- Understand that people who regularly ask for money, may need counseling as well. Giving money is not always what is needed.
- Set aside some of your wants to help those who are in need and don't let your left hand know what the right hand is doing.
- Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. (James 1:27 NIV)

16 Big Regret

- In Hell, the rich man feels a big regret.
- He says to Abraham, "Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment." (Luke 16:27-28 NIV)
- Evidently, the rich man is not without feelings.
- "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'" (Luke 16:29 NIV)

17 Big Regret

- Yes, that's right, the rich man realizes.
- But Moses and the prophets were not enough for him. "No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'" (Luke 16:30 NIV)
- Surely they will turn their lives around if dead Lazarus comes back to life and warns them!
- Shaking his head, Abraham says, "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'" (Luke 16:31 NIV)

18 No Regrets

- Abraham is talking to us, right along with the rich man and his brothers.
- In fact, someone has been risen from the dead and He speaks to us as well.
- It is Jesus who gives us this story tonight and warns us not to ignore the scriptures and instructs us not to live a self-centered and indulgent lifestyle where we purposely turn a blind eye to the real needs around us.
- He does this so that on the day in which God will expose the motives of men's hearts (1 Corinthians 4:5 NIV), we will have no regrets.

19 No Regrets

- We are not yet in the afterlife, calling out to Father Abraham.
- We are not stuck in a place of regretting that we did not do enough, that we did not do more, that we did not choose wisely, that we did not have enough time.
- As long as we are breathing, we can choose to live a life of integrity—listening to the teachings of the Bible, and live a life that is true to our deepest convictions.
- The greatest ambition one could have is to one day leave this life with no regrets.
- Jesus has shown us the way and if we walk in His footsteps not only will we have the “light of life” shining on our path, but we’ll have real intimacy and fellowship with God.

20 Communion

- Tonight as we celebrate communion, let us realize that as we walk in Jesus' steps, there are no regrets.
- As He denied Himself for the good of others and God exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above all names—Lord, we too will be honored if we become like Him.
- So then as we partake of symbols of His life broken and poured out, let us understand that there are no regrets for those who honor Him and follow in His footsteps.
- Real intimacy with God is reserved for those who walk in His footsteps. Let us so walk . . .