

Welcome to 'Wake Up Call' your weekly email support from



Success

Do you ever feel that everyone else is getting on and you are not? The others- whoever they are – are succeeding and you seem to be stuck. When you see their success (and at their age) you alternate between despondency, resentment and jealousy. It's not that you're a failure it's just that you don't feel a success. It's certainly a feature of our work culture today that we live in a world where, as psychologist Oliver James puts it, "Winners feel like losers".

What's going on? Why do you feel the others are succeeding and why do so many feel that in spite of their achievements they are not doing well?

Underneath all this type of thinking is the notion that there is a way of measuring success. Subconsciously we have measured ourselves on this scale and feel that we were not good enough. But what is this scale? Which numbers do you use? Where is the tape measure or formula which calculates your success quotient? Although not irrelevant, money is rarely seen as the sole measure of success, especially by those who have lots of it. Success, for many of us, seems to have something to do with achievement. How much do you have to achieve to be a success? If you win the Premier League but not the Champion's League are you not a success? Maybe health or family are the real areas in which success should be measured.

Jesus Christ had a simpler definition. 'Eternal life is to know me' he said. He seemed to imply that knowing Him was the sole measure of success. He told stories about homecomings or finding lost sheep or coins. He spoke of working for pearls or stumbling on treasure but all the pictures point to knowing Him. In a sense, everything else is just detail or bonus. So the question is, do you know Him? If you do, your life is a success. You have succeeded in the most important area. Your eternal issues are resolved. This does not imply that you now sit around and do nothing but that whatever else you do proceeds from the position that you are already a success. This is your source of energy and motivation. But this is also your guideline; it's not that you don't run, it is that now you are in a different race.

Both the rich young ruler and Zacchaeus were wealthy. Popular opinion would have put the ruler much higher on success scale than Zacchaeus but when they met Jesus, one found his way and the other didn't. Popular opinion may still have judged the young man a success but Zacchaeus had found the pearl. Now he could do his job properly. Now he could be free on the inside. He had met The Lord and now he could be called a success. Whether anyone agreed or not, his life was a success. He could have still looked at others with envy but he had no need. He now knew Jesus Christ. This is success.

Bible Reading for 17th June is in Wake Up News - as is a link for a conference for dads.

To request Wake Up Call for a friend send their name and email address to info@worknetuk.org

See the Wake Up News at the end of this email

Geoff Shattock
National Director
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Please note that over the next few weeks we are in the process of upgrading our websites and email. Also please note our new email address of wakeupcall@worknetuk.org

This address is for correspondence about Wake Up Call only. For general enquiries please use info@worknetuk.org

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WAKE UP NEWS:

Geoff is one of the main speakers at a conference for dads next Saturday. For details visit <http://cymen.org.uk/greatdads2002.htm>
Our new web site is nearly ready we will let you know all about the benefits to you ASAP.

This Wake up Call is linked to John 17:1- 5 which can be read below .

¹After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: ²"Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. ⁵And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.