Memorial Service Rich Willis

Joshua Creel

INTRODUCTION

- We have billed this as a celebration of the life of our friend and our brother Rich Willis.
- What a fitting idea that we celebrate the life of Rich, one who celebrated life each and every day.
- He left behind the very principles that I would have normally spoken about at a time like this. Rich had tied his heart to God.

1 What Is the Purpose of Life?

Matthew 5:14–16

- You are the light of the world, a city set on a hill cannot be hidden.
- Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
- The point of life is to appreciate what God has given to you. And to help others to see the blessings that God has shown in your life.
- Keep the faith, share his love, give him the glory.
- I know that God is ultimately in control, and I trust him to do what is best for his glory and for my life.

2 Take Advantage of the Opportunities

Galatians 6:9–10

- Let us not grow weary of doing good. For in due season we will reap if we do not give up.
- So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, especially to those who are of the household of faith.
- I'm taking advantage of the opportunities because the opportunities are there. My heart could stop beating tonight. Yours could too.
- He lived life looking for the opportunity. Opportunity to enjoy what God had left. Opportunity to reach out and to help others.

3 Our Interdependency

Proverbs 17:17; 1 John 4:7–8

- The idea that we're not here on an island, that we're not here just by ourselves, that we rely on each other.
- A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.
- Beloved, let us love one another. For love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.
- We are interdependent. We rely on others, and we in turn do what we can for others.

4 The Power of Prayer

Philippians 4:6–7; Ephesians 3:20–21

- Rich would say that one of the reasons we need to pray is that it's one of the cures for anxiety.
- Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving. Let your request be made known to God.
- We pray because we understand the one whom we are praying to is the one who can help.
- Why keep praying? Because Rich knew what his God could do.

5 A God Who Blesses His People

James 1:17; Ephesians 1:3; James 1:12

- Who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.
- God has a sneaky way of using those days to teach us that he is in control and that he's watching out for us.
- But the greatest blessings are those in the life to come.
- Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial. For when he has stood the test, he'll receive the crown of life.
- I simply have a deep, abiding faith that God is true to his promises, and I know that I have been his humble servant.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **I hope you'll keep this in your heart and mind if you're not right with the Lord, that indeed you will respond and make that choice.**

MY NOTES