

Four Most Important Things

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For years, pastor and author Ron Hutchcraft would hand out four index cards to the groups he was sharing with and ask them to write one of the four most important things in their lives on each card. After everyone had done this, he shared that a disaster had just come into their lives, and that they were going to lose one of these most important things. Everyone had to drop one of their cards, but they got to choose which one.

He repeated the exercise again, this time with a little more resistance. And then came the choice between the last two cards. He told them that they were going to lose everything but the most important thing in their lives. They could keep one card, but only one.

Having the most important thing in their hands, they were then asked, "What would happen if you lost that?"

If you were to do the exercise, what would be on each of your four cards? If disaster struck, which card would you drop first? Second? Which would you hold onto until last? Could disaster even take that away from you?

If what or who matters most to us is something that can be taken away from us, then we can never really be totally secure and we can never really be completely at peace.

Chances are that you have already lost some of the cards that have mattered most to you in your life. Chances are that you are already aware of the need for something that is "un-losable", something that will stand steady and help you in the midst of life's storms and unpredictable weather.

We need, in essence, a personal lighthouse in our lives. There's something reassuring and calming about lighthouses. A lighthouse stands on a hill so all can find their way to the light. A lighthouse is a symbol of security in the midst of storms.

I heard that when Maine was deciding what they wanted on the back of their state quarter they chose the lighthouse for what it means and symbolizes. Have you seen the quarter? I love it! I read a story that the artist who submitted the lighthouse design for the quarter loves taking pictures of lighthouses from all different perspectives and in many different settings. He has photographed them in sunshine and in darkness; in storms and in calm; and at high tide and low tide. He summarized what he has seen in this way, "The lighthouse is always there, but everything else is changing."

In our ever changing world, we need something that we can totally depend on when everything else is changing.

We need something; actually someone, who is, as the photographer said about the lighthouses, "always there."

Fortunately, as Christians, we have a lighthouse that is always there and always shining for us. We find it described in Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

As relationships come and go, as jobs and houses and possessions come and go, as our health changes, as our feelings change, as our lives and situations change, and even as we lose our loved ones and our family, and all of those things and people who matter most, Jesus Christ remains our personal lighthouse that never moves and never changes. He is changeless – what was true back then is true today. What He did back then He does today. And His promise is that He will be with us always – even to the ends of the earth.

From the nursery to the nursing home to the funeral home, in good times and in bad, and most certainly in this season of uncertain weather when the storm clouds darken and the surf becomes more turbulent, Jesus is the Lighthouse that will be "always there" for you. You grab His hand and He will never let go.