



Mine the Depths

“Better to spend your time at funerals than at parties.

After all, everyone dies—

so the living should take this to heart.”

Ecclesiastes 7:2 (NLT)

Somber advice... yet, hidden beneath the sorrow lies a vein of gold.

My closest friend, a pastor, having performed countless weddings and funerals, confided... “I’d much rather do funerals. People are much more receptive to the gospel then.”

Funerals open the oft abandoned depths of our being... where life’s gold is buried.

The writer of Ecclesiastes cuts to the chase – all will die. Take this to heart, not to dread, but to Mine the Depths.

“Let’s name the “levels” of our being:

- *You have fleeting thoughts throughout the day, most of which are insignificant.*
- *You also have longings, hopes, and dreams that are far more important.*
- *Deep within you, you have experienced the cry for love, hope, and joy, which feels almost primal to your being.*

I call these layers of our being the Shallows, Midlands, and Depths.”

– John Eldridge (Resilient)

Like lava pouring from a volcano, our most primal longings, having been locked deep under layers of Shallows and Midlands, can surface at funerals. Amid our groans, they freshly overshadow the lesser, material ones. Powerful questions arise: “Is he in Heaven now? Was he loved? Did he live a life worth living?” Then the questions turn inward...

Reflect: Am I living a life worth living?

Contrasting, New Year’s celebrations drive resolutions... a fresh start! Yet, for most, they address the Midlands at best. The next year it’s “Groundhog Day.”

“What do people get for all their hard work under the sun? Generations come and generations go, but the earth never changes. The sun rises and the sun sets, then hurries around to rise again. The wind blows south, and then turns north. Around and around it goes, blowing in circles. Rivers run into the sea, but the sea is never full. Then the water

returns again to the rivers and flows out again to the sea. Everything is wearisome beyond description... I observed everything going on under the sun, and really, it is all meaningless—like chasing the wind.”
(Ecclesiastes 1:3-14)

When opened, the Depths of our beings cry for life beyond the sun, where unconditional love, belonging, enduring hope, and meaning reside. It's here that we taste the gold of Intimacy with the Lord and his priorities flash... Inevitably, the Shallows and Midlands rejoin the wearisome cycle under the sun and the layers rebuild.

Must access to the Depths be so fleeting?

Consider: Loving others unleashes my Depths

Clearly, those who have loved the most are the most grieved at funerals. Their testimonies can be distressing, but they are laced with love. We long for such love... “Am I loved like that?”

“If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.” The Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

Love others unleashes our Depths... lacking it, everything under the sun remains self-serving, meaningless... stuck in the Shallows and Midlands. No love? No life. No life? No meaning. No meaning? No life well lived...

*Imagine: **The Lord using my Mission to open the Depths.***

Has the Lord left you here to be a “clanging cymbal”? What’s your Mission, the work he’s called you to do, if not saturated with love for others? If not to help them Mine their Depths and experience the gold of Intimacy with God? What’s mystifying is that by so doing, we too Mine our Depths. The Lord works all sides at once!

“For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don’t use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” The Apostle Paul (Galatians 5:13-14)

The heart of your Mission, set before you daily, is loving others. Want to live a life well lived?

Mine the Depths

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

Coach's Questions

- When did I last experience my Depths? How did fresh Intimacy with God reshape my priorities? Have the Shallows and Midlands since buried these? How will I reopen my Depths?
- How often does love drive my daily activities?
- How will I center my life around my Mission?

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

I love others because I know God.

"Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

The Apostle John | 1 John 4:7-8 (NLT)



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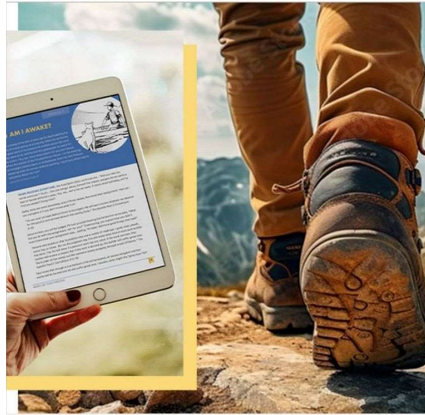


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