

Turning \$20 to \$200

My friend is a very sophisticated wine collector. I am fascinated on his flowery words to describe the wine's fragrance, texture, body, color, and taste. He follows recommendations from experts to buy wine with good potential for \$20 a bottle. In his cellar he labels his collections by dates. He has a clear goal in aging the wine. When his \$20 wine is selling for \$200, he knows the wine has reached its potential. He will then enjoy the bottle.

We too can turn our life from \$20 to \$200, figuratively speaking. How? To set clear goals for life – making a personal mission statement.

We can learn from Jesus who used the words of Isaiah (61:1-2a) to be his mission statement: (Lk4:18f)

1. Preach good news to the poor.
2. Heal the broken-hearted (KJV only).
3. Proclaim freedom for the prisoners.
4. Recover sight to the blind.
5. Release the oppressed.
6. Proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

The Lord's favor year means the Year of the Jubilee. In the Jewish calendar, 7 years make a new circle. The 7th year is the Sabbatical when farmers stop planting to rest the fields. Following seven circles, the 50th year is the Year of the Jubilee when debts will be forgiven and prisoners released. However, this ideal had never been actualized.

Jesus was clear on his goals with this mission statement. One very important point: Jesus did not read the 2nd half of the same verse in Isaiah which reads: "And to proclaim the vengeance of the Lord." Jesus did not come to judge but to forgive.

Life is short and precious and we have lots of work to do. Ask what we can do for the Lord. Start making a mission statement.

Let us pray: ***Gracious Lord and Savior: help me to concentrate on the important things in my life and set goals. Help me to chart my life in accordance to your plan. Amen.***

變二十元為二百元

我的朋友對葡萄酒的認識很有造詣，他能細說酒的芳香、濃度、色澤及品味。他依照專家的指示以二十元一瓶的價錢買入好酒，藏在酒庫裏，等到市價升到二百元一瓶時，才開瓶享受。他的目標是很明顯的。

同樣地，若我們能認清目標，寫下人生的標竿，為主發光。我們也可以把人生的價值像從二十元變成二百元般的提升。耶穌用以賽亞先知的話代表祂的標竿，重點如下：

- (1) 向貧窮的人傳福音。
- (2) 安慰傷心的人。
- (3) 叫被擄的得釋放。
- (4) 叫瞎眼的得看見。
- (5) 使受壓制的得自由。
- (6) 報告神悅納人的禧年。

猶太人以七年為一週年，第七年農夫停工不耕，使土壤得以休息。第五十年是禧年，在這年，一切債務和罪犯都應得到赦免。可惜歷史上這理想從未落實。

耶穌來便是要實現這些目標，祂保留以賽亞書第六十一章第二節的下一句沒有讀出來，就是：“宣告神報仇的日子。”因為祂來，是要赦免我們的罪，不是要定我們的罪。

人生既短暫又寶貴，我們可以為主作什麼呢？寫下我們的人生標竿吧！