

Today Can Become a Masterpiece

How would you describe your life?

- Are you achieving what you desire?
- Are you accomplishing the things that are important to you?
- Do you consider yourself a success?
- How do your prospects look for the future?



The way you live your life today is preparing you for your tomorrow.

The question is, "What are you preparing for?" Are you grooming yourself for success or failure? Always try to look at today as preparation for the future, and as a result it paves the way for your success tomorrow.

One benefit of that mind-set is confidence.

When you were in school, did you ever study so well for an exam that you walked into the classroom with absolute confidence, knowing you would ace the test? Or have you ever rehearsed a song or practiced a basketball shot so thoroughly that you just knew you would be able to deliver at crunch time? You can bring that same kind of confidence to your everyday life, if you keep in mind that today matters.

The disciplines that you practice today will give you a better tomorrow.

The first ingredient of success is making good decisions. However it has no real value without the second, which is practicing good discipline.

Let's face it:

- Everyone wants to be thin, but nobody wants to diet.
- Everyone wants to live long; not many want to exercise.
- Everybody wants money, yet few want to work hard.



Successful people conquer their feelings and form the habit of doing things unsuccessful people don't like to do.

The bookends of success are starting and finishing.

Decisions help us start. Discipline helps us finish.

Have you ever noticed that the people who have nothing to do usually want to spend their time with you?

Poet Carl Sandburg said,

“Time is the most valuable coin in your life. You and you alone will determine how that coin is spent. Be careful that you do not let other people spend it for you.”

Your greatest possession is the twenty-four hours you have directly ahead of you.

- How will you spend it?
- Will you give in to pressure or focus on priorities?
- Will you allow pointless e-mails, unimportant tasks, interruptions and other distractions to consume your day?
- Or will you take complete responsibility for how you spend your time, take control of the things you can, and make today yours?
- If you don't decide how your day will be spent, someone else will.



To make sure that you spend our time wisely, use the power of the following questions:

1. What is required of me?

When ordering priorities, always start with the requirement question and give it careful thought before moving on to the next question.

2. What gives me the greatest return?

As you progress in your career, you begin to discover that some activities yield a much higher return for the effort than others do. The next place to focus your attention is on those high-return activities.

3. What gives me the greatest reward?



If you do only what you must and what is effective, you will be highly productive, but you may not be content.

I think it's also important to consider what gives you personal satisfaction. No one can be successful who doesn't possess the discipline to take care of the first two areas before adding the third.

Philosopher William James said,

“The art of being wise is the art of knowing what to overlook.”

If you bring your priorities into focus by answering those three questions, you will have a much better idea of what you should overlook.

Make each day your ‘masterpiece’!

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