

The late Steve Jobs said, "When I was 17, I read a quote that went something like: "If you live each day as if it was your last, someday you'll most certainly be right." Jobs said, "It made an impression on me."

Then he went on to say, "Remembering that I'll be dead soon is the most important tool I've ever encountered to help me make the big choices in life."

Well that statement certainly made a *life changing impression* on Steve Jobs, the founder of Apple. Steve Jobs went on to lead a revolution in personal computers (think iPad), in how we listen to music (think iPod), and in communication (think iPhone). But then, that is exactly what Jobs and his team at Apple set out to do.

You see in the early days of Apple they had a simple mantra: *we want to put a dent in the universe*. That was the mantra they lived by: we want to put a dent in the universe. Their goal was not to make computers; no, *they wanted to do something so glorious and grand that they would put a dent in the universe*. I think we can all say that Apple succeeded.

But I think it all went back to that quote which Steve Jobs read at the age of 17: "If you live each day as if it was your last, someday you'll most certainly be right."

I think that quote made Jobs wake up each morning with the passion and determination that if this was his last day on earth then he was going to make the most of it; if for no other reason than he wanted to make a dent in the universe.

Death has a way of challenging us to look at life and ask what kind of dent, what kind of impression we are going to make on the universe. You see many people assume that there will always be a tomorrow. That when I get the time, the money, when life slows down, when the kids are grown; then I'll get around to making a dent in the universe, then I'll think more about the lasting impression that I can leave.

But none of us are guaranteed tomorrow. Even Steve Jobs who dented the universe came to that realization when the doctor told him he had pancreatic cancer.

Some of you are there now. You've heard the doctor's diagnosis. You are left to wonder what impression you've made, what kind of dent, if any, you put in the universe. It's a challenging place to be. But it doesn't have to be the end.

A small band of Jesus disciples were left hopeless after they had seen Jesus die on the cross. Their hopes for a grand and glorious tomorrow died on that cross and were buried in the grave with Jesus. Their thoughts of denting the universe; leaving an impression on the world in which they lived were gone. They had no hope, no tomorrow, and no direction.

That was Friday.

Fridays have a way of robbing us of our ability to live each day to its greatest potential, and putting a dent the universe.

As Steve Jobs learned; death has a strange power over us. **Death makes us reexamine our lives in ways that we seldom ever approach at any other time in life.** Remember how Jobs remarked that he found that "Remembering that I'll be dead soon is the most important tool I've ever encountered to help me make the big choices in life."

Death has a way of confronting us and making us suddenly stop and ask questions about life's meaning and purpose. We weigh our lives and look at the days trying to understand if how we have lived has really made an impression. And we look at the days to come and ponder the kind of impression that we can have.

Jesus' Friday disciples just gave up. Jesus death was to them the end of their lives, their dreams. This was Friday and to them it would always be Friday.

In 25 years of ministry, I cannot think of any individual who knew that they were dying who did not stop and reevaluate their life. They spoke to me of choices they made and whether they would make them again. They thought of the impression left by their life on those closest to them. *The prospect of death is a tool that can help us make big choices with our life.*

But what if we didn't wait until we knew we were dying to start evaluating our life- to wonder if we've made the kind of impression that puts a dent in the universe? *What if there was another way to live life?*

What if we decided today that we are going to make a daily, intentional impact on our little piece of the universe?

Could we really make a difference? Could we really dent the universe?

Imagine with me for a moment that **someone died for you.** What would that do to your life? How would you respond knowing that someone sacrificed their life so that you could live?

Earlier in March CCN online reported just such a story. The headline read: *Afghan Police Officer Embraces Suicide Bomber to Save Others.* Murad Khan, the Afghan Police Officer, saw something suspicious that day in the marketplace. Hundreds of people, including children, were moving about without any thought for their own safety. But Officer Khan knew that something was wrong. A man's actions were consistent with that of a suicide bomber. Khan moved toward the man who was wrapped with explosives and fumbling for the detonator. Khan arrived just in time to wrap his arms around the bomber who was ready to pull the trigger.

Khan and a number of others were killed that day; but many more, including children, were saved by the Afghan police officer. And that got me to wondering how those children will respond to knowing that someone gave their life that day so that they could live?

Last August on Lake Michigan, two children fell out of a kayak and started to struggle against the waves. Without a second thought, 50 year old pediatric surgeon, Dr. Donald Liu, dove into the Lake in an attempt to save the two children.

Liu's efforts resulted in two children being saved that day. But this beloved doctor was pulled under by the waves that had tried to claim the children. Donald Liu, on a trip with his own family, died so that others might have life.

Again the question comes; if you are those two children; how do you live the rest of your life knowing that your life cost another man his?

If it was me, *if I knew that someone had died so that I might live*, I would want to *make certain that my life counts because it cost him everything*.

Death, our own or that of someone else, can have a powerful influence on how we live.

But what if I told you that there is something that has a far greater power to make you reexamine your life, to make it possible for you to *dent your universe* not just once but *every day*?

Remember that small group of disciples who were living with the memory of Friday's death of Jesus? They were certain that their opportunity to dent the universe was gone. But *that was Friday...*

Today is Sunday!

And on Sunday, Jesus, who gave his life for those disciples, and each and every one of us, turned what looked like a defeat into a victory.

Death could not defeat him; and death would forever be changed! Jesus rose victoriously over death! *The power of the resurrection* did more than just dent the universe; it *tore a hole wide enough for Jesus to walk out of his grave*. And the power of Jesus' resurrection has turned the world upside down- changing lives, bringing hope and providing direction.

Those disciples who on Friday saw their world come to an end; suddenly knew that *their opportunity to make a dent in the universe was possible!*

They also began to understand that because someone had given their life for them that *they had a responsibility to make the most of every day they were given*. They were going to make a life-changing impression on the world that would last! *Their lives were going to count!*

While Steve Jobs made a dent in the universe I think he went about it from the *wrong perspective*. Jobs was looking at death as the motivator for his daily pursuit of that opportunity to dent the universe.

Remember that comment from Steve Jobs I shared at the beginning: "Remembering that I'll be dead soon is the most important tool I've ever encountered to help me make the big choices in life."

What if we revise that a bit in light of the resurrection and say: **"Remembering that Jesus is alive is the most important tool I'll ever encounter to help me make the big choices in life every day."**

Choices like ...

Ever since the resurrection, the disciples of Jesus have been making dents in the universe every day! They have been making life-changing impressions by living like Jesus!

The question I want to leave you with this morning is this; **In light of the resurrection, what dent are you making in the universe?**