

The Greatest Success

by Og Mandino (1981)

Zacchaeus was a wealthy man by trade when Pontius Pilate asked him to be the chief tax collector for Rome. Pilate felt he would be honest & not steal from Rome or the citizens. Nobody wanted this job so Pilate made him realize if he didn't do it others would take advantage of the locals. He climbed a tree to see Jesus & was asked to host Jesus. Shortly after he heard Pilate killed Jesus & Zacchaeus resigned. He sold all he owned, gave most to the poor & painted his rules on the walls of Jericho.

A useless life is far worse than an early death. **How can we know what we can accomplish unless we try?** Nothing is impossible unless you agree that it is. Grief knits two hearts into a stronger bond than happiness can. First, we wish, then plan, then act. How regretful it is when a man becomes a slave to his job that he becomes blind to the miracles around us.

Never worry about the inevitable. The secret of confronting any situation in life that threatens to defeat you is to stand fast. Don't be blinded by self-pity; count your blessings. **No decision is a decision.** The best time to count your friends is in adversity. Every failure is a step toward success. Yesterday with all its mistakes has passed forever & cannot harm you. Waste not a moment's thought on that which may never happen (concern yourself only with the present).

Fear not death; if we die, we will be with God & if we live, God will be with us. Don't be overwhelmed by failure or success, neither will last. **Ask myself where I will be in one year; then plan what needs to be done to reach your goal & do it.** Reading words have no effect on our lives unless we act on them.

Commandments:

1. Thou must labor each day as if thy life hung in the balance
2. Thou must learn that with patience ye can control thy destiny
3. Thou must chart thy course with care or ye will drift forever
4. Thou must prepare for darkness while traveling in the sunlight
5. Thou must smile in the face of adversity until it surrenders
6. Thou must realize that plans are only dreams without action
7. Thou must sweep cobwebs from thy mind before they imprison thee
8. Thou must lighten thy load if ye would reach thy destination
9. Thou must never forget that it is always later than ye think
10. Thou must never strive to be anything but thyself

Quotes: "True friends are never acquired by chance; they are a true gift from God." (Og)
"We are rich only through what we give – and we are poor only through what we keep." (Og)
"Simplify your life. He is richest who is content with the least." (Og)

Books: All things Bright & Beautiful (James Harriot)