WHAT IS THE MEANING OF LIFE?
Rejecting God Brings Insecurity
by Ernest O'Neill
Program 215

We're discussing on this program each day at this time what the meaning of life is, that is, why we're here, why you are here, why you'll live seventy or eighty years here on this earth. And you'll remember that we have come to the conclusion that the man Jesus of Nazareth was actually the Son of the Maker of the universe. We've concluded that on the basis of intellectual reasoning, you remember, through study of the historical evidence for His life that lies behind the ancient manuscripts that we can see in places like the University of Manchester and the British Museum.

And we have come to the agreement that Jesus of Nazareth is really the Son of the Maker of the universe. He's the only human being that has ever left the earth and come back with any semblance of likelihood and with any semblance of convincing, persuasive powers to make us convinced that, in fact, he was with the Maker of the universe, and that He talks the same way the Maker of the universe would talk, and He speaks the way we would expect the Son of the Maker of the universe to speak. And so we came to the conclusion that He was, in fact, the Son of the Maker of the universe. He had power over nature, and most of all, power over death.

And you remember, we discovered that He explained to us that we were here on earth to become His Father's friends; in fact, to become His Father's children; to become like Him, sons and daughters of God. And that's why you have been put here on the earth. But you remember we said that of course we did not like that idea. We did not like the idea of having to trust in a Maker, and we decided we will live our own way, by ourselves, by our

own powers without putting any faith in Him or without concentrating on doing what He wanted us to do in the universe.

And so that's what we have done, most of us. As a result we have found ourselves without a great factor that is essential for our sanity: we are without love. Because we find ourselves little flies on a spherical spaceship that is flashing through space at hundreds of thousands of miles an hour, with no visible means of support. We don't really know why the Australians don't fall off. We explain it by the law of gravity, but we know we're just giving a name to something that we really don't understand. And so there's a great sense of insecurity here on this earth.

And there's a great sense of feeling that we have nobody really to look after us. And that's a natural result of our rejecting the idea that there is a Creator. Because, of course there is a Creator, and when we reject the idea that there is one then we live in unreality. And that unreality has brought tremendous insecurity to most of us. We also look around us and see that there are four billion other people who think that they are absolutely unique. And we think we're unique, but they don't seem to notice it. And so there comes to us a great sense of a lack of self-esteem, a lack of self-worth.

And that of course comes from us rejecting the fact that there is a Creator and a loving father-like person who knows us by name and has counted the hairs of our heads, and gives us a great sense of self-worth when we believe that. But when we reject that idea and regard it as unreality, then we're left with a dreadful sense of our own lack of self-worth and lack of self-esteem. And so most of us have trouble with that. We also have great difficulty with the sense of unhappiness that we feel. Because without Him in any way by our sides we see the universe as an unfriendly place and a threatening place.

And most of us live with a tremendous sense of sadness and unhappiness. We long for the peace of the Walden Pond and for the excitement of the Arabian Nights, but we seem never able to get that blissful sense of excitement and security that gives us what we human beings call happiness. And so most of us live nowadays with a dreadful sense of inadequacy, of having fallen far short of what we are meant to be; a continual compulsion to try to prove ourselves and justify our existence in order to get over the sense we have that our Creator is no longer close to us and we are no longer close to Him.

And we spend most of our lives, actually, trying to make what money we can, to provide the sense of physical and emotional security that we desperately need. And so we find ourselves living in this world with a great sense of insecurity and a great sense of unhappiness or sadness and a great sense of falling short or lacking the self-worth and the self-esteem that we feel we should have. The result is, of course, that we have tried desperately to get those things from the world itself.

We have tried to get self-esteem and self-worth from our teachers, from our professors, from our bosses, from our husbands, from our wives, from our children, from our parents, from our peers, and yet they never seem to be able to make us feel as valuable as we really feel we are. And a great deal of our dissatisfaction comes from the experience of constantly feeling that they don't recognize how important we are. We also live most of our lives scrambling for the pound or the dollar to try to get as much security as we can and yet we always feel we never have enough of it.

Even when we get a very carefully arranged insurance plan, and get a retirement plan in place, and at last get our house paid for, we still have a dreadful sense of insecurity knowing that at any

moment an incurable disease could hit us and destroy all our savings and destroy us.

It's the same with happiness. We constantly try to get the high that we need from a combination of the alcohol and then the drugs, and the marijuana, and a combination of having nice experiences and exciting experiences in vacation time and in fast cars and fast motorbikes. But somehow we never are able to get the happiness that we feel we were made for. And so we find that the experience that we have here on earth seems to fall short of what we feel we were made for.

And of course Jesus explained that that's because God put eternity in our hearts. That's the way He put it in one of the old books in the Old Testament. He said that God has put eternity in man's heart. And it is so, you know. We all feel we were made to fly, don't we? We feel we were made to fly high, and to soar above the petty limitations of this earthly world in which we find ourselves. And yet we never are able to.

And so we always feel some sense of misery. Indeed this, for many of us, gets to the point where we actually look forward to the time when we will leave the world, and when we will simply cease to exist. And of course, what is happening is, we're mirroring inside our own conscience and consciousness what the Creator Himself has determined has to happen to us. Because He now looks upon us and sees in place of a group of children that trust Him and have faith in Him and love Him and want to cooperate with Him in developing the universe according to His plan -- He sees a bunch of little rebels who want to live life the way they want to live it.

And in fact they want to be gods themselves, and want everybody to look up to them and esteem them above everybody else, and actually want to make the world serve their purposes,

and establish their security whatever it costs anybody else. And so He sees a bunch of rebels who, if He lets them go, would spread all of their mess and all their self-will and their dominating powers over the whole universe if He gave them the opportunity. And so Jesus explained to us that in fact in order to limit the damage and limit the fall-out, the Creator of the universe has determined that we have to cease to exist in so far as we are individuals, at the end of this world.

And the way it was put in the Old Testament near the beginning of Genesis in chapter 3 verse 19 God said, "In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground. For out of it you were taken. You are dust and to dust you shall return." And the Creator determined that we would return to the earth and there we would cease to exist. And we would not have the ability to live forever that He had given us.

And of course that, the reality of that fact, is mirrored in our own sense of depression at times, when we think that there's no point in living. And so many of us are aware that we are under condemnation to death, not only physical death, but also a spiritual death. And maybe we should talk about that tomorrow, what that means, because it has a great deal to do with your being "you". Let's talk about that tomorrow.