



Over a period of 40 years, John Maxwell identified twelve critical areas of his life that he calls the “Daily Dozen.” In this series we have already discussed five of them: faith, family, relationships, attitude, and priorities. Each represents a commitment to be credible and consistent. Each is a decision—a final decision—that from this day forward, my daily agenda will be intentionally influenced and strategically directed by this priority.

Maxwell concludes that “if you settle these twelve issues by making the right decision in each area and then manage those decisions daily, you can be successful.” Why? Because “once the big decision has been made, you rarely need to revisit it.” Furthermore, “if we make the critical decisions before we *have* to, then we can make them without our emotions controlling us.” This results in decision-making that is (1) easier and objective, and (2) confirms the leader’s integrity and leaves no regrets.

Mike Huckabee, Republican presidential candidate and former Arkansas governor, demonstrates how his Christian values make decisions easier and objective: “Faith doesn’t just influence me; it really defines me. I don’t have to wake up every day wondering, ‘What do I need to believe?’” He goes on to say, “Let us never sacrifice our principles for anybody’s politics, not now, not ever.” (NY Times, 27 November 07)

Throughout his administration, Abraham Lincoln was a president under fire, especially during the scarring years of the Civil War. He knew he would make errors while in office, but he resolved never to compromise his integrity. So strong was this resolve that he once said, “I desire so to conduct the affairs of this administration that if at the end, when I come to lay down the reins of power, I have lost every other friend on earth, I shall at least have one friend left, and that friend shall be down inside of me.” No regrets.

Values matter. Good or bad, they are the deeply held assumptions that guide our actions and are revealed by our priorities. Values are confirmed by our actions more than our words. Earthly values, built on the sands of human philosophy, will fail you in the storm. Godly values, built on the rock of biblical truth, will protect you and guide you (Psalm 25:21, Proverbs 11:3). They are “an anchor for the soul, firm and secure” even in the storm (Hebrews 6:19).

1. *How can you determine values that are good, universal and eternal?*

1 Timothy 6:20-21

2 Timothy 3:16-17

2. *How would you describe Jesus’ values? What can you learn from how He handled each test?*

Mark 12:13-17

Mark 12:28-33

3. Read 1 Samuel 24:1-22. How would you compare the values of Saul and David?
(also consider 1 Samuel 15:2-3, 19-23 for Saul, and 1 Samuel 13:14 and Psalm 57 for David)

*“We know you are a man of integrity.
You aren’t swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are;
but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth.”*
(Mark 12:14)