

# Focusing on the Main Thing

We live in a hurry-hurry world, and despite all of the timesaving, labor-saving approaches and devices available to us today, it seems that our wishes and desires require more additional time than the new technology and planning provide.

What this really means is we need to prioritize what is important to keep the main thing the main thing.



The most fascinating example of this is the story about author and diplomat Clare Booth Luce. She was the wife of Henry Luce, publisher of *Time*, *Life*, *Fortune* and *Sports Illustrated*. She was U.S. ambassador to Italy from 1953 to 1956.

Ms. Luce told of her visit with John F. Kennedy when he was in the White House. She was known for her forthrightness and straightforward manner.

She said to Kennedy, “Mr. President, you must get the Soviets out of this hemisphere.” They talked for a few minutes, then the phone rang and the president went off to answer it.

He came back rather excited and said, “I got my textile bill passed! Now, what were you saying, Clare?”

To this, Ms. Luce responded, “Mr. President, there are many great men remembered in our civilization. Of one man, they said He went to a cross and died so that all men’s sins may be forgiven. Of another man, they said he went in search of a new route to an old world and founded a new world. Of another, it is said that he took up arms against his mother country and with a motley army of rebels defeated the greatest military power on earth to found a new nation.

“And of another,” Ms. Luce continued, “it is said that he had to hide in the dark of night as he came into Washington, and grieved for four years that the nation might be half-slave and half-free. Mr. President, of none of these great men was it said, ‘He got his textile bill passed.’”

The lesson: Our priorities are important, and once we get them in order, great things can happen in our lives.

In Life Care Centers of America, our mission statement proclaims that “residents are our highest priority.” Century Park’s vision statement declares a people-come-first focus.

For us, it is clear where our priority lies.

*We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up (Romans 15:1-2 ESV).*