

## Week 2: It's About Time

Last week we looked at how our purpose should determine how we live our lives. This week we focus on how that should impact the way we use our time.

### 1. Wisdom Lies in Seeing Time as the Great Limited Leveler

- Read Psalm 90:1-13

Scripture makes it clear that we all have a time limit. Every person on earth is given the same time window in a 24 hour period. What differs from person to person is how we use that time.

### 2. Wisdom Lies in Making the Most of Our Limited Time

- Read Ephesians 5:15-16

Most of us realise that we do not make our time count for the kingdom of God and we know that we should make changes, but we feel controlled and paralysed by our circumstances that seem to demand more time than we have. Paul speaks into that mind set by reminding us that we do in fact have a choice in how we use our time, and that living differently will require wisdom. Wisdom is not just knowing how to live differently, but actually doing it.

- ❖ Q: How many of us feel that we do not have enough time to do everything we need to do?
- ❖ Q: Why is this not entirely true?
- ❖ Q: What does Paul mean when he says we should be “wise” with our time?

Personal Reflection:

- ❖ Q: Are you applying God's wisdom to the way you spend your time, or are you a slave to the rat-race culture?
- ❖ Q: What things do you do in your week that you know are unnecessarily taking up time and energy that could be better used elsewhere? (Take time now to make a quick audit: E.g. Facebook, T.V, meeting with friends that are a bad influence, mindless internet browsing, shopping for things that you do not need, dashing from one event to the next because of FOMO (fear of missing out) etc.).

### 3. We Spend Time in Line with Our Chosen Priorities

- Read Ephesians 5:15-17

Our priorities and motives determine where we spend our time. What we say “yes” to is a choice to say “no” to something else. For many of us, our busyness reflects our need to be seen as successful, while at the same time trying to avoid the reality of who we really are underneath all that. If our purpose of living to glorify God was front and centre of our lives, our schedules would reflect that God comes first, others next and then ourselves after that. This prioritisation will not happen by itself. We have got to plan, diarise and then follow through on our commitments.

Biblical Prioritization of time will look something like this:

#### i. God First

- Regular worship
- Time in prayer and scripture
- Godly rhythms of work and rest

## ii. Others Next

- Prioritized time with family and loved ones
- Time with God's people
- Acts of service and sacrifice

## iii. Then Self

- Smarter work
- Leisure and exercise
- Development

- ❖ Q: Is planning how we spend our time loving towards others? Explain.
- ❖ Q: Why is keeping our time commitments an indication of our priorities?
- ❖ Q: In which area mentioned above are you best at prioritizing time and why do you think that is? (God, others or yourself).
- ❖ Q: What is the one area that you easily neglect and what is God nudging you to do about it?
- ❖ Q: How can we guard against the temptation to justify our current priorities that overshadow all of the others? (E.g. If you spend an hour every day at the gym but have no time to have meaningful conversations with your wife/husband, how are you going to change that, while still acknowledging that exercise is also important? A typical rebellious default response would be to say that exercise is critical for my health, and so I will make sure I give my wife/husband undivided attention over the dinner table instead. We justify our true priorities hoping that things will change, without us having to make intentional shifts in our choices.)

#### 4. The Notion Of A Timeless Eternity Brings New Priorities To The Time-Bound Temporary

- Read Ecclesiastes 11:8-9

We deceive ourselves into thinking that what we do here doesn't really have a huge impact on eternity, but we are so wrong. We will all stand before God for how we stewarded the life he has given us.

We all have "time stealers" and it's important for us to recognise and redeem them where possible.

- ❖ Q: Take a moment to really think about what you are honestly living for and then share that with your group. (E.g. financial freedom, your retirement, your next holiday, your social life, your comfort, your entertainment, your spouse, your kids, your success... or are you living with the kingdom of God in mind and in focus?)

#### Group Reflection:

- ❖ Q: What one thing is the Holy Spirit impressing on you from this message that he wants you to deal with this week?