

Theology of time Management: Glorifying God with the Resource of Time

Pastor Joel Albright - FBC - Adult Sunday School for Spring, 2021

Lesson #4 - Discerning Wisdom in Choices of Time Management

INTRODUCTION

Q: What are your takeaways from the two articles & Scripture Focus?

- *4 Lessons in Fruitful Time Management - By David Mathis*
- *You have Just Enough Time - By John Bloom*
- *Mark 1:35-39 -*

Q: What are Pastor Joel's goals for our class today?

1. Remember where we've been, where we are, and where we are going
2. Identify the folly in our choices of time
3. Listen to Scripture about our choices of time
4. Apply wisdom to our choices of time
5. Motivate us to continue in this process

We need to identify folly, know scripture and apply wisdom in our choices of time management

I. IDENTIFYING FOLLY IN OUR CHOICES OF TIME

Q: In what ways do the follies of laziness or busyness show in your life?

A. The Folly of Laziness

1. Laziness often leads to the neglect of responsibilities -
2. Laziness often leads to the problem of addiction - Tech growth comes with new capabilities and new dangers.
3. Laziness often leads to the problem of acedia -

B. The Folly of Busyness

Q: When can busyness be folly? 3 considerations:

1. When busyness is rooted in pride - ("Killer P's" from DeYoung - "Crazy Busy")
 - People pleasing, Pats on the back, Performance evaluation, Possessions, Proving myself, Pity, Poor planning, Power, Perfectionism, Position, Prestige, Posting

2. When busyness causes you to neglect God-given roles
 - “An overflowing schedule can become a shield protecting us from the unpredictable, inconvenient, time consuming needs of other people. It’s an effective cover... who can argue with you if you have too many things to do?” - Bloom
3. When busyness abuses God’s gift of rest
 - Dulling of the blade -

C. Categorizing our choices of time: We spend time in 1 of 4 ways.

- “The strength of moral character is conserved by refusing the unimportant” - J. Sanders
- “What is important is seldom urgent and what is urgent is seldom important” - D. Eisenhower

Intended use for this

- Analysis -
- Awareness -
- Aim -

Terms

- Urgent -
- Importance -

Quadrant 1 -

- Examples:
- Response/view:

Quadrant 2 -

- Examples:
- Response/view:

Quadrant 3 -

- Examples:
- Response/view:

Quadrant 4 -

- Examples:
- Response/view:

Q: How do I have more time for quadrant 2?



II. LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE ABOUT OUR CHOICES OF TIME

10 directives from Scripture that shape our wisdom in choices of time

- A. Scripture communicates the reality of thorns and thistles** - (Gen 3)
- B. Scripture condemns laziness** - (Prov. 6:6-11; Prov. 16:13-16)
- C. Scripture condemns pride** - (Prov. 16:5)
- D. Scripture condemns neglect of personal responsibility** - (I Tim. 5:8)
- E. Scripture condemns the neglecting the gathering of the body** - (Heb. 10:25)
- F. Scripture commends diligence** - (Prov. 6:6-11; Col. 3:23; II Pet. 1:5,10; Phil. 1:12)
- G. Scripture commends redeeming the time and being proactively circumspect about choices** - (Eph. 5:15-17)
- H. Scripture commends personal disciplines for the purpose of shrewdly seizing gospel opportunities** - (Col. 4:2-6)
- I. Scripture commends prioritizing time with the Lord** - (Luke 10:38-42; Ps 1:1-2)
- J. Scripture commends appropriate rest** - (Ps. 127:2) "God made us finite and fragile. He made us to spend almost a third of our lives not doing anything except depending on him... We don't live in a culture where environmental cues force us to bed and we have gadgets to keep us awake." - DeYoung

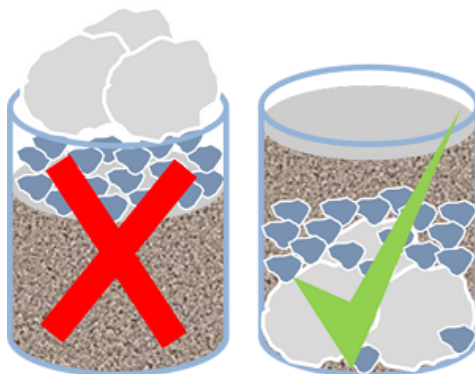
III. APPLYING WISDOM TO OUR CHOICES OF TIME

5 actions to apply wisdom in our choices of time

A. Regularly prioritize as an outflow of mission and roles

How does this work?

- Big Rocks -
- Small rocks -



B. Proactively give significant attention to the important, but not urgent

C. "Be killing sin or sin will be killing you" - John Owen (Col 3:5)

D. "Be motivated by the mission of love"

- "Devote yourself to good both in terms of proactive scheduling and planned flexibility.... fairly rigid blocks for our proactive labors, along with generous margin and planned flexibility to regularly meet the unplanned needs of others."
- Mathis

E. Manage discretionary time with prayerful prudence

- How do you manage surplus/ discretionary time?
 - "Leisure is a glorious opportunity and a subtle danger. Each moment of the day is a gift from God that deserves care...The way we employ surplus hours after provision has been made will determine if we develop into mediocre or powerful people." - J.Sanders
 - Choose hobbies that are enjoyable and redemptive.

IV. ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE FOR THIS WEEK

A. Scripture Focus:

- Read/Study Colossians 4:2-6. Observe and think through how Paul prioritizes the gospel and what personal spiritual disciplines he articulates that God uses to this end.

B. Weekly Article:

- Read *Simple Tricks for Productivity* - By R.C. Sproul, *Productivity: Redeeming Your Time* - By R.C. Sproul, and *7 Thoughts on Time Management* - By Doug Wilson.

C. Practical Assignment:

- Track every hour this week either by using the chart available on our webpage or by creating your own.
- At the end of each day, review and record how every hour of your day was spent. Especially record SPECIFICS of how you spent discretionary times. The more details you give the better data you have.
- At the end of the week, add up totals of the following categories: sleep, time wasters, planning, working, commuting, etc. and do an analysis/report of how many hours per week you spend in various categories.
- This will give you the basis of strategy moving forward for week #5 of our class when we will focus on planning our week.