

the Boss of me

Study Three The Clock Boss



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Introduction & Review

We have been studying Jesus' teaching about the MINDSET that every Christian should approach life with. This mindset is based on the ROLE or position we play in our lives and the ROLE or position that God holds over His creation. We have seen from Scripture that Christians must view themselves as MANAGERS of the things God has entrusted to them. God, as Creator and Savior, holds the rightful position as the BOSS of each one of us and the rightful OWNER of everything we are responsible to oversee.

LAST WEEK we learned about how our RELATIONSHIPS with GOD and our RELATIONSHIPS with other PEOPLE are CONNECTED. We learned from Jesus' teaching that it is impossible for us to have healthy spiritual relationships with God if we are permitting unhealthy relationships to continue with people in our lives here on earth. We were challenged from Scripture to "clean the slate" in both our horizontal relationships and our vertical relationship if we are to experience God's blessing, protection, and a sense of fulfillment in life.



THIS WEEK we are going to look at another one of the Boss' assets and see how the Bible recommends we manage another commodity that is not ours to waste. Let's see if you can guess what it is.

Try to fill in the blank to these quotes:

- _____ changes things.
- A stitch in _____ saves nine.
- No _____ like the present.
- It seems like we never have enough _____.
- _____ is money.
- How we spend our _____ is how we spend our lives.

Okay, so you figured out our next asset we are supposed to be MANAGING for God, our Boss, is TIME.

Listen to these other time related sayings:

- The future is something which everyone reaches at the rate of sixty minutes an hour, whatever he does, whoever he is. *C.S. Lewis*
- By labor we can find food and water, but all of our labor will not find for us another hour.
- Half our life is spent trying to find something to do with the time we have rushed through life trying to save. *Will Rogers*
- Time is free, but it's priceless. You can't own it, but you can use it. You can't keep it, but you can spend it. Once you've lost it you can never get it back.



- Time is more valuable than money. You can get more money but you can not get more time.
- Do you love life? Then do not squander time because time is the stuff life is made of. *Benjamin Franklin*
- Time is what we want most but what we use worst. *William Penn*
- I know time is always against us. *“Neo” in The Matrix*
- You can’t kill time without injuring eternity. *Henry David Thoreau*

Transition We’ve just listened to some interesting sayings from various people of our world concerning *time*. Now the Bible is certainly not silent on the subject of time.

Listen to some of these verses that offer God’s insight on time:

Psalm 89:47 Remember how short my time is: wherefore hast thou made all men in vain? *Our time here is short.*

1 Peter 1:17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: *Respect God during our time of journey here.*

Acts 17:26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; *Events in time are predetermined by God.*



Ecclesiastes 3:1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: *All of God's purposes have a time.*

Ephesians 5:15-16 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. *Take every opportunity to exchange temporal time for eternal results.*

These verses contain both simple and complex truths concerning *time*. But of all of the passages and teachings in the Bible regarding time, and there are many more, what *key principle or idea* does our heavenly Father want His children to understand, that would cause us to MANAGE OUR TIME in a way that would please Him as our Boss? *Simply put:*

Question

What key principle does God want us to remember as we MANAGE the TIME He has given us to spend?

Like last week's study, the study this week is not intended to be an exhaustive instruction manual for Biblical time management in the Christian's life. By the end of today's segment, we want to come away with one key perspective that will influence the choices that each of us must make regarding our time.

Transition Jesus knew that there was going to be a time period here on earth when He would be absent, and believers would be left to continue His mission of building His Kingdom. In fact, much of His teaching was aimed at changing His followers' perception of time and how they understood the temporal and the eternal. Today we will examine 4 passages and try to come away with a key idea that Christ wants us to remember today. **Turn to Mark 1:15....**



Passage

Mark 1:15 for our first passage.

As we examine these passages, look for a *common pattern or theme* that will offer us some insight to what Christ was trying to communicate to the first believers and subsequently to us, today.

Mark 1:14-15 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, **15** And saying, The **time** is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Passage Question

1. What principle can we learn about how God sees/uses time from Mark 1:14-15? One of the things that Mark 1:14-15 reveals is that God's plan for His ETERNAL Kingdom is being worked out through time HERE and NOW.

Now turn to Luke 18:29-30

Luke 18:29-30 And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, **30** Who shall not receive manifold more in this present **time**, and in the world to come life everlasting.

Passage Question

2. What principle can we learn about how God views time from this passage in Luke 18? Luke 18:29-30 shows that the choices that believers make here in this time will not only impact PRESENT TIME but will also IMPACT ETERNITY.



Now turn to Luke 21:34

Luke 21:34-36 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any **time** your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting [*carousing*], and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. **35** For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. **36** Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Passage Question

3. What does Jesus teach about how we should view time and eternity in this passage in Luke 21? **Luke 21:34-36** teaches that the **TRANSITION** from this temporal time into eternity, will happen **QUICKLY** and with little warning, therefore believers should pay attention to **HOW** they spend their time.

For the last passage we'll look at today, turn to 1 Peter 4.

1 Peter 4:1-5 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; **2** That he no longer should live the rest of his **time** in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. **3** For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: **4** Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: **5** Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.



Passage Questions

4. What does God teach believers about how we should spend our time through 1 Peter 4? 1 Peter 4:1-5 teaches believers that the REMAINDER of their time here on earth should be spent doing God's will because eternity and JUDGMENT are coming.



Summary of Passages

From all 4 of these passages we can see that the TEMPORAL impacts the ETERNAL. Things that take place in time here and now are affecting eternity. Activities that will have an end here will have results that will last forever. How we choose to spend our TIME will affect what God's Kingdom will look like for ETERNITY.

It is impossible to separate the cause and effect factor from our time here and its eternal impact. Therefore, as managers of that which is not ours, we must be attentive because choices here in this time will change the look of forever.

Transition So what key principle does God want us to remember as we manage His time?

Application

The answer is this:

Christians must remember we've been given a FIXED AMOUNT of time for the PURPOSE of GROWING God's eternal Kingdom. Christians must spend God's time carefully in order to maximize its eternal effect for His Kingdom.



Discussion Questions

- Why do you think Christians prefer to avoid lessons and sermons about the stewardship of their time? *Maybe they're afraid they will have to give something up that they enjoy doing.*
- Do you think most Christians feel that spending their time growing God's Kingdom is less enjoyable than doing other things? *Why or why not?*
- Do you think Jesus expects us to give up spending time on all of the things we enjoy in life in order to spend time on growing His Kingdom? *He'd rather we "swap" enjoyment for joy.*

Listen 3 verses from John 15:

John 15:8, 11, and 16 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. **11** These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. **16** Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

In Jesus' final instructions on building His Kingdom, He spoke about pleasing the Boss, glorifying the Father. He taught His followers that God is glorified when they produce lasting fruit. Jesus told His disciples then, as well as us today, that building God's Kingdom brings true joy into our lives and THAT JOY is worth swapping enjoyable activities for joy-filled eternal results.

Transition Okay, so how do we swap "enjoyable" time spent for "joy-filled" time spent this week?



Call to Action

Since only PEOPLE and not things can go to heaven, Christians will have to evaluate the EFFECT or IMPACT they are having on the PEOPLE around them. TIME is required to influence people.

There are TWO kinds of people Christians can affect: *Believers and Unbelievers*.

Here are 3 questions we can ask ourselves to help us keep our eternal impact in focus as we spend our time.

1. In what ways this week have I **HELPED** a fellow believer improve their relationship with God?
2. In what ways this week have I **INFLUENCED** an unbeliever toward meeting and/or accepting Christ?
3. What have I done this week to get **CLOSER** to God personally?

Remember, spending time growing His Kingdom can actually bring joy into your life!

Renewing Our Minds with Scripture Memory

These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. *John 15:11*

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