

Pastor Jason Huffman

9/7/2025

Teaching Notes:

Title: Timely Investments

Big Idea: Invest your time in God's eternal will.

4:1 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, **2** that he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. **3** For we *have spent* enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

Isaiah 55:2 NASB “Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And delight yourself in abundance.

4 In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with *them* in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of *you*.

5 They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

6 For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

1. Invest in sharing the gospel.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes,

Penn Jillette “How much do you have to hate somebody to believe everlasting life is possible and not tell them that?”

There are simple ways to share the gospel such as telling the story of who you were before Jesus, then how you met Jesus, & how Jesus changed your life.

There are questions you can ask...

Do you have a faith? Do you go to church?

From 1-10, if you died today, how sure are you that you would go to heaven?

There are also clues you can listen to in their lives.

7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore, be serious and watchful in your prayers.

2. Invest in purposeful prayer.

Matthew 6:7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.

8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”

Fervent love means Love stretched out.

3. Invest in uncomfortable love.

To cover means to forgive just as Christ forgave us.

9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.

Hospitality refers to a care for strangers.

4. Invest in welcoming strangers.

10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **11** If anyone speaks, *let him speak* as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, *let him do it* as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

When God creates a person, they are given abilities & talents.
When God gives us a new life in Him, we are given gifts.

A steward takes care of someone else's investment.

5. Invest the gifts you have.

Sermon Recap

Have you ever wondered if your daily routine is more than just passing time? Pastor Jason challenges us to view every moment as an investment opportunity in God's kingdom. Through practical insights on purposeful prayer, fervent love, and using our spiritual gifts, this message transforms our perspective from merely spending time to investing it for God's glory.

Discussion Questions

Pastor Jason discusses the difference between spending time and investing time. What are some examples from your life where you've merely spent time versus truly invested it?

- The sermon emphasizes that spending time means you use it and enjoy it, but it's gone, while investing time means you use it and have something in return from it.
- Looking at your typical week, what specific activities could you transform from time spent to time invested?

Based on 1 Peter 4:1-3, how should our past lifestyle choices influence our current decisions about how we use our time?

- Peter writes that we have 'spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles' and should now live for the will of God instead of fleshly lusts.
- What specific changes have you made in your life priorities since becoming a Christian, and what changes do you still need to make?

The sermon discusses 'fervent love' that can cover a multitude of sins. What does it look like to practice this kind of stretching, persevering love in our daily relationships?

- Pastor Jason describes fervent love as love stretched out - deep, earnest, with intensity, and sustained effort, suggesting commitment and perseverance.
- Think of a challenging relationship in your life - how could applying 'fervent love' change your approach to that situation?

How can we practice hospitality without grumbling in today's busy world, especially to strangers?

- The sermon defines hospitality as caring for strangers and emphasizes welcoming people outside our circle, whether we're introverts or extroverts.
- What practical steps could you take this week to make your home, workplace, or church more welcoming to newcomers?

Pastor Jason talks about being stewards of the gifts God has given us. How can we identify our spiritual gifts and ensure we're using them effectively for God's glory?

- The sermon explains that when God creates a person, they receive abilities and talents, and when given new life in Him, they receive spiritual gifts to be used for His will.
- What gifts do you have that you're currently not using for God's kingdom, and what's holding you back from using them?

Prayer Prompts

- Ask God for wisdom to invest your time for His will and glory.
- Seek guidance on sharing the gospel boldly with others.
- Pray for strength to practice fervent love in challenging situations.
- Request God's help in using your unique gifts for His purposes.

5 Day Devotional

This five-day devotional will be taking a deeper dive into the sermon from this weekend. We'll explore the theme of investing our time wisely for God's glory and learning to live a life that reflects His purpose and love.

Day 1

Core Scripture: 1 Peter 4:1

The first core message of our devotional centers around preparing ourselves spiritually for the battle we face daily. We are reminded to arm ourselves with the mind of Christ, one that denied Himself to glorify and please the Father. This path may involve suffering, just as it did for Christ, but it leads to abundant life through Him. As we grow spiritually, our prayer should echo Christ's words: "Not my will but Yours be done."

Jesus' journey through the cross and resurrection exemplifies that true investment in God's will brings eternal dividends. Reflect today on how you are spending your time — are you investing it in

ways that honor God and fulfill His purpose for you? Remember, every moment dedicated to His will is never wasted.

- How can you arm yourself with the mind of Christ today?
- In what ways have you experienced suffering in your spiritual journey, and how has it helped you grow?
- Reflect on moments when you have said, "Not my will but Yours be done." How has your faith been strengthened during such times?
- Pray for the strength to deny yourself in favor of God's will.
- Seek God's wisdom to understand His purpose for your time.

Day 2

Core Scripture: Isaiah 55:2

The focus today is on realizing what true satisfaction looks like. The sermon calls us to reconsider how we spend our time, urging us to invest it in God's will, which is rewarding and fulfilling beyond worldly pursuits. Peter's caution against lewdness, lust, and idolatries is still as relevant today as ever. The life we once led, driven by fleshly desires, becomes a hollow existence when we realize that true contentment comes from God.

Consider the analogy of the woman at the well. Just as she found true satisfaction in what Jesus had to offer, so can we. Reflect on your past pursuits and evaluate how pursuing God's will has brought true and lasting satisfaction to your daily life.

- What are some ways you have experienced God's satisfaction as opposed to worldly pleasures?
- How have you seen God's will bring fulfillment to your life?
- In what ways can you continue to align your desires with God's?
- Ask God to reveal areas where you are seeking satisfaction outside of Him.
- Pray for a heart that fully delights in God's abundance.

Day 3

Core Scripture: Romans 1:16

Paul boldly declares the power of the Gospel, and today's focus is on the importance of sharing this power with others. Our sermon reminds us that while living for God may result in misunderstanding or even judgement from others, we are ultimately accountable to God, not man. Sharing the Gospel isn't just a call, it's an investment in eternal salvation for others and ourselves.

Reflect on the fact that sharing the Gospel helps us grow in faith and spreads God's love in powerful ways. It further anchors our spiritual walk, reminding us of His promises and the eternal life we are called into. Take courage in this truth and step out in faith to share your testimony and the message of Christ with those around you.

- What obstacles have you faced when sharing the Gospel, and how has God helped you overcome them?
- Who in your life can you share your testimony with this week?
- Reflect on the impact that the Gospel has made in your personal journey of faith.
- Pray for opportunities and boldness to share the Gospel.
- Seek the Holy Spirit's guidance to speak words that build faith in others.

Day 4

Core Scripture: Matthew 6:7

Today's devotional explores the power and necessity of purposeful prayer. As challenges arise in our life, prayer remains our steadfast communication with God. Not just an expression of our desires, but a way of aligning ourselves with God's will. The sermon encourages us to focus on purposeful and serious prayer, asserting its importance amid hardships and tribulations.

Prayer is not about empty words, but meaningful, heartfelt conversations with God. As you pray today, let it be a reflection of your needs, the world around you, and the people in your life. With purposeful prayer, seek to enhance your spiritual discernment and align your life with God's plan.

- Consider how your prayer life reflects your relationship with God.
- Reflect on specific instances where purposeful prayer led to clarity or understanding.
- What are some ways you can be more earnest and disciplined in your prayer life?
- Ask God to deepen your prayer life.
- Pray for a heart that seeks God's presence earnestly.

Day 5

Core Scripture: 1 Peter 4:10

Our final day focuses on employing God's gifts in our lives. As stewards of His grace, we are called to use our abilities and talents not for personal glory but for His. The sermon calls us to look beyond ourselves, inviting us to invest our gifts in service to others within the community of faith and beyond.

Reflect on how God has uniquely equipped you to contribute to His kingdom. Consider how your gifts can be an avenue for His love and grace to reach others, bringing glory to Him. Remember, investing your gifts not only blesses others but also brings you fulfillment and strengthens your relationship with God.

- How have you used your spiritual gifts to serve others this week?
- Reflect on the areas where you feel called to serve more actively.
- What challenges do you face in using your gifts, and how can you overcome them?
- Pray for opportunities to use your gifts for His glory.
- Ask for wisdom to recognize and act on moments where your gifts can serve others.

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