

Just Give Part 5: "Stewarding our Time" (3-4-2018)

This series: "Just Give" An act of surrender, that enables us to become Generous Givers, who learn to Steward well all we have been giving by our Father the King!

This Week: "Stewarding our Time"

Let's apply all we have been learning about Stewarding faithfully and wisely, and Giving generously with gratitude, to this topic of time.

1) Steward our Time faithfully

Remember last week: We steward faithfully by knowing and obeying our master.

a) Tithe your time . . . Give it to Him (This is how we get to know our master)

Mark 1:35 (ESV)

And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.

Psalms 63:1-4 (ESV)

(1) A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah. O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. (2) So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. (3) Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. (4) So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.

Notes: Spending time with God has a way of re-calibrating to what's really important, and aligning myself with Truth. If we give our time to Him, then we can watch Him surprise us as He can redeem and expand our time!

b) 100% of your time . . . Live it with Him (This is how we learn to obey our master)

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (ESV)

Pray without ceasing

Jesus praying throughout his life

- (Lk 3:21-22) At His Baptism.
- (Mk 1:35-36) In the morning before heading to Galilee.
- (Lk 6:12-13) Praying all night before choosing His 12 disciples.
- (Mt 11:25-26) While speaking to the Jewish leaders.
- (Jn 6:11, Mt 14:23, Mk 7:31-37, Jn 11:41-42) In his miracles
- (Lk 11:1) Before teaching His disciples the Lord's Prayer.
- (Mt 19:13-15, Jn 17:1-26) Praying for others
- (Mt 26:36-46, Lk 23:34, Lk 23:46) Before and during his crucifixion, and in his final breath

Philippians 4:12-13 (ESV)

(12) . . . In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.
(13) I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Notes: When I take time to know Him, then I can spend my day with Him, and can follow and obey along the way.

2) Steward our Time wisely

A Psalm of Moses (generally recognized as the oldest Psalm) . . .

Psalms 90:4, 10, 12 (ESV)

(4) For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night . . . (10) The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away . . . (12) So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

Notes: Let's consider the nature of time, and learn to spend it wisely.

Considering Time:

As the great theologians (Hootie and the Blowfish) once asked, "Time, why you punish me?"

- a) **Scare** - Time is a resource (like money) that runs out. In fact, unlike money, we can't collect any more of it. Therefore it is rare and precious!
- b) **Temporary** - It is a dimension of this world only, therefore it is non-existent in Heaven/Eternity
- c) **God isn't bound by it** - God is eternal, therefore time is nothing to Him.
- d) **Entrust your time to God** - Invest your time into Eternity. Use what will run out to invest in what will never run out.

Some Reflections on Time:

- **Learn to Rest**
 - This is an act of trust (Jesus slept in the storm)
 - It's physically healthy for us (NBA players and the discipline of sleep)
 - It combats anxiety (reminds me how little control I have)
- Work hard, but **don't celebrate busyness**
 - Our culture celebrates and honors busyness. A full calendar = a full life (social and work)
 - Would you celebrate someone who spends all their money, blowing it on things that don't last and then trying to live off scraps?
 - Remember – time is a scare resource too. SO why do we celebrate those who spend it in busyness?
- **Control your Calendar** (not the other way around)
 - Learn to say "No!"
 - Practice the phrase: "My schedule won't allow it"
 - Choose Wisely – What really lasts?
 - Prioritize People then be at Peace

When we learn to steward our time wisely, then we can give it away generously . . .

3) Give our Time generously

John 4:4-14 (ESV)

(4) And he had to pass through Samaria. (5) So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. (6) Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. (7) A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (8) (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) (9) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) (10) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." (11) The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? (12) Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." (13) Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, (14) but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Notes:

- Jesus lives within the confines of time. Look How normal this all is – Jesus is traveling, tired, thirsty, resting, disciples are grocery shopping.
- Jesus tends to his personal needs
- Jesus engages with the person (read: interruption)
- Jesus carries eternity with Him everywhere, and happily gives it away!

Ephesians 5:2, 15-17 (ESV)

(2) And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God . . . (15) Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, (16) making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. (17) Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Notes: Walk in love, it's the best use of our time!

4) Spend all our Time gratefully

Ecclesiastes 3:11-13 (ESV)

(11) He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. (12) I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; (13) also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.

Notes: I can live with gratitude, because in due time, God is making all things beautiful! Therefore I can be . . .

- Grateful for the time I have
- Grateful for eternity

Conclusion: Time is a limited resource, but we are eternal beings. If we will invest what is temporary by spending our time faithfully, wisely, generously, and with gratitude, then we will reap the rewards eternally.