

## Just Give Part 6: “Making Time for Generosity” (3-11-2018)

**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!

**Last 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** - 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)**

**Note:** 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)**

**Note:** When I take time to know Him, then I can spend my day with Him following and obeying along the way.

**2) Steward our Time wisely**

**Considering Time:** Let’s consider the nature of time, and learn to spend it wisely.

- 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 spending our Time Wisely:**

- **Learn to Rest**
- Work hard, but **don’t celebrate 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 . . .**

## This Week: "Making Time for Generosity"

### 1) 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, and His disciples are grocery shopping. (vs. 4-8)
- Jesus tends to his personal needs – he is resting and he is thirsty (vs. 6-7)

#### **Jesus is practicing 3 things . . .**

- Pace, Margin, Rest. As a result, look at what is now possible . . .

#### **John 4:9-10 (ESV)**

(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."

**Note:** Jesus engages with the person (read: interruption). When we learn to slow down, embrace time, and be present, then we can see people not as interruptions, but as valuable and worthy of our time.

#### **John 4:13-14 (ESV)**

(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."

**Note:** Jesus carries eternity with Him everywhere, and happily gives it away!

**Jesus' approach to how he uses His time turns what could be a truly forgettable day into one of the most well-known and impactful moments of His ministry!**

- Jesus walked through life managing His time in order to prioritize people.
- Now he invites us to this same kind of life.
- Look at how Paul explains it in Ephesians 5 (which is a very practical chapter on walking in love) . . .

### **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!

Make the best use of your time because the days are evil . . .

**Definition of evil** (Greek word: poneros): Labor, sorrow, pain. Evil in a moral or spiritual sense.

- 1) full of labors, annoyances, hardships
  - a) pressed and harassed by labors
  - b) bringing toils, annoyances, perils; causing pain and trouble
- 2) of a bad nature or condition
  - a) in a physical sense: diseased or blind
  - b) in an ethical sense: evil wicked, bad

**Because the days are evil, it is so much easier to forget to spend our time generously by walking in love. The secret to walking in love even in the midst of an evil day is to . . .**

### **2) 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:** Complete understanding of the “what” and “why” of this life is out of reach (vs. 11), but 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.