

5.17.20

Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it. – James 4:17.

How does this verse make you feel? This verse is the basis for Jamie's sermon on procrastination. The Bible warns of idleness, lazy hands and those who don't work, don't eat. What are you guilty of when it comes to procrastination? It may not be spiritually deadly, but why is all procrastination a bad thing? Discuss then read **Ecclesiastes 10:18**.

"Procrastination: my greatest sin. It brings me endless sorrow. I'm going to stop doing it. Perhaps I'll start tomorrow." Jamie said, "We need to be able to tell the difference between the wisdom of waiting and the pitfall of procrastination. The Bible tells us there are times when it is wise to wait. Listen to these verses – **Proverbs 21:5, Proverbs 29:20, Psalm 37:7**. What do these verses tell you if you don't wait on God's timing? What can happen if you don't wait and don't look to God? Jamie mentioned marrying the wrong person, sending a nasty email, etc. List three of your own and discuss.

Jamie mentioned fear is a breeding ground for procrastination. To eliminate it, we must trust God and do what is right. Read **Psalm 119:60**. How can we learn to take the proper action, no matter the consequences? John Maxwell wrote, "Cowardice asks the question, 'Is it safe?' Consensus asks the question, 'Is it popular?' But conscience asks the question, 'Is it right?'" And if it's right, we do it. Read **Proverbs 29:25**. Name two ways you can learn to trust God, no matter the cost.

Read **Matthew 6:33**. God is to come first. Make time to pray and read the Bible and don't say you're too busy. Why do you think people's priorities are misplaced? How have you overcome this? How does the Bible show if God is put first, everything else will fall into place? Explain.

Read **Philippians 1:9-10**. Procrastination can attack anyone. Jamie gave some protection tips: Create personal deadlines, list daily priorities, learn to make tough decisions, set a consistent schedule, take advantage of down time and appreciate special moments. Read **Ecclesiastes 4:5-6 & 3:1**. "There has to be rhythm to life or we get out of balance. Decide when you work, when you relax and do it." Read **Ephesians 5:15-16** and **Romans 13:11**. Close by praying for God to help you make the most of every opportunity (**Colossians 4:5**) and to heed James 4:17, always putting God first in your life.