

This powerful message invites us to reconsider how we spend our most precious resource: time. Beginning with a stunning revelation from Psalm 139, we discover that God's thoughts toward us outnumber the grains of sand on every beach. Every hour, He watches over us. Every minute, He cares for us. Every second, He loves us with an everlasting love. This foundational truth challenges our common assumption that God is too busy for us. Instead, we learn that people are God's number one job. The message then shifts to examine our own stewardship of time, drawing from Ephesians 5:15-16, which calls us to redeem the time and make the most of every opportunity. We're confronted with the parable from Luke 12 about the rich fool who built bigger barns, planning for years of ease, only to have God demand his life that very night. This sobering story reminds us that time is short and precious. The core teaching presents a godly order for our time: first with God, then with our spouse, our children, our extended family, and in service to God's church. Notably, our jobs come last in this hierarchy, challenging our culture's work-centered lifestyle. This isn't a call to irresponsibility, but to wise prioritization that reflects eternal values rather than temporary pursuits.

Title: Stewarding Your Time: Making God Your First Priority

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the biblical concept of time stewardship through the lens of God's investment in us and our response to Him. The pastor emphasizes that God constantly thinks about us, looks after us, cares for us, and loves us with thoughts outnumbering grains of sand. Just as God gave Adam clear direction to care for creation, we are called to be faithful stewards of our time. The message challenges believers to examine their priorities and establish godly order: time with God first, then spouse, children, extended family, and service to God's church. The sermon warns against the trap of prioritizing work and material success over relationships and spiritual growth, using the parable of the rich fool to illustrate the brevity of life. The core conviction is that people are God's number one priority, and therefore God should be our first love, requiring intentional time management that reflects eternal values rather than temporal pursuits.

Key Points:

God spends time thinking about us constantly, with thoughts outnumbering grains of sand

God takes time to look after us, care for us, and love us with everlasting love

Adam was given clear direction to be a steward of God's creation and use his time wisely

Time is short and precious, as illustrated by the parable of the rich fool

We should be good stewards caring for what God has given us

Godly order for time prioritization: God first, spouse second, children third, extended family fourth, church service fifth

Work and money-making often consume our time at the expense of godly priorities

We must redeem the time and make the most of every opportunity because the days are evil

People are God's number one job, and we should make God our first love

Stories:

The pastor's experience at the Marshfield, Wisconsin farm technology show with Fellowship of Christian Farmers, giving away over 200 walking sticks daily and encountering a child who had never heard of Jesus

The story of being invited to Milwaukee's Air and Water Show despite feeling unprepared, and how God provided everything needed

The incident of welding a plow for a neighboring farmer who jokingly said he didn't use grease guns but just wore things out

The pastor's daughter telling him on Christmas Eve after he plowed the church parking lot, "Dad, sometimes we want you"

The family playing baseball together after milking until dark or mosquitoes drove them inside

The friend who tried a high-paying promotion for 30 days but turned it down to have life with his wife and children

The pastor's son turning down a lucrative store management position to be with his boys and family

The pastor's challenge to himself to not forget God for one minute while farming, with a sign on his tractor saying "let go and let God"

Scripture References from the Sermon

Explicitly Referenced Scriptures:

Psalms 139:17-18 - God's thoughts toward us outnumber grains of sand

2 Thessalonians 3:3 - The Lord is faithful and will strengthen and protect you

1 Peter 5:7 - Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you

Jeremiah 31:3 - I have loved you with an everlasting love

Genesis 1:28 - Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it

Genesis 2:15 - The Lord God put man in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it

Luke 12:16-21 - Parable of the rich fool (building bigger barns)

Ephesians 5:14-21 - Wake up sleeper, redeeming the time, being filled with the Spirit

1 Corinthians 7 - (Alluded to regarding unmarried people spending time with God)

Alluded to but Not Explicitly Cited:

Genesis 16:13 - Hagar calling God "the God who sees"

The Book of Jonah (chapters 1-2) - Jonah going down to Joppa, into the ship, etc.

Matthew 26:40 (or parallel Gospel accounts) - "Could you not watch with me one hour?" (Jesus in Gethsemane)

Proverbs 30:8-9 - Give me neither poverty nor riches (referenced regarding contentment)

Book of Ecclesiastes - (Mentioned regarding someone else getting what you've stored up)

Suggested Relevant Verses for Main Themes:

Time Management/Stewardship:

Psalms 90:12 - "Teach us to number our days"

Colossians 4:5 - "Make the most of every opportunity"

God's Care and Love:

Romans 8:38-39 - Nothing can separate us from God's love

Matthew 6:26 - God cares for the birds, how much more for you

Family Priorities:

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 - Teach children diligently

1 Timothy 5:8 - Provide for your family

The sermon emphasizes that God's thoughts toward us outnumber the grains of sand. How does knowing God constantly thinks about you change the way you view your daily struggles and decisions?

Pastor Dave confessed feeling convicted about how he spent his time when young. What would you do differently with your time if you could live your life over with the knowledge you have now?

The parable of the rich fool in Luke 12 warns against storing up things for ourselves while not being rich toward God. What does it practically look like to be rich toward God rather than simply accumulating possessions?

The sermon presents a godly order: time with God, spouse, children, extended family, then church service. How does your current use of time align with or differ from this order, and what adjustments might God be calling you to make?

Ephesians 5:16 calls us to redeem the time because the days are evil. What specific opportunities to share Christ or serve others have you missed recently because you were too busy or distracted?

The pastor shared stories of people who turned down promotions and higher salaries to prioritize family. What would it cost you to choose godly order over career advancement or financial gain?

The sermon notes that many children have never heard the name of Jesus. How can we be better stewards of our time to reach those who are spiritually lost in our own communities?

God takes time to think of us, look after us, care for us, and love us every moment. How should God's constant attention to us shape the attention we give to our spouse, children, or those God has placed in our lives?

The pastor challenged himself to not forget God for even one minute during the day. What practical disciplines or reminders could help you maintain awareness of God's presence throughout your daily activities?

The sermon asks if we understand what the Lord's will is regarding our time. When was the last time you specifically asked God what He wanted you to do with your day, and how did He answer?