



A Time for Everything

Lesson 2

A Time for Perspective

PRAYER

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

What will they say?

A popular productivity guru tells people to imagine what people will say about you at your funeral. He says this gives you perspective as you make decisions on how to spend your life. Read the following words about two dead “kings”. Which one of these “eulogies” do you think people would generally prefer at their funeral?

King One:

- He defeated the King of Aram and 32 other kings allied with him in battle.
- Established a lucrative trade deal with Damascus.
- Fortified cities and built a palace inlaid with ivory.
- Died in battle.

King Two:

- When [he] had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers and his body decayed.

In small groups, do the following:

- List as many impressive “eulogy-worthy” accomplishments that David had in life as you can.

- In 2 Samuel 7:12 the LORD says to David, *“When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom.”* Reconsider the words of Acts 13:36 above. Then finish this sentence: *“One of the most important things you can say about the life of David (or anyone who has died) is...”*

- What are some other ways to finish that sentence? How do those words affect their perspective on life.

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

Mark 8:31-33 *[Jesus] then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.”*

1.) Describe the “concerns of God” that Jesus has in mind as he looks ahead in his earthly life.

2.) What are the human concerns of Peter that led him to want to avoid God’s plan?

Mark 8:34-38 *Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? ³⁷ Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”*

3.) Apply these verses to a person’s perspective on...

- **Career –**

- **Singlehood/Choice of Spouse/Marriage –**
- **Children –**
- **Sports –**
- **Money –**
- **Chronic/Crippling/Terminal Illness –**
- **Technology –**
- **News/Shows –**
- **Anything else?**

I’M BUT A STRANGER HERE...

1.) A well-loved hymn reads, “I’m but a stranger here, heav’n is my home...” Hebrews 13:14 says, *For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.* In 1 Peter 1:17 the apostle writes, *Since you call on a Father who judges each person’s work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear.*

- Describe the difference in how you treat a friend’s guest room where you are staying for two nights and how you treat your own room at home.
- Describe the difference between treating this world as a guest room or as your permanent home.

2.) Ruth is a great example of someone living as a foreigner. She was not from Israel; she was from the foreign nation of Moab. Yet she chose to live as a foreigner.

Ruth 1:8-9, 11-13, 16-18 Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back, each of you, to your mother’s home. May the LORD show kindness to you, as you have shown to your dead and to me. ⁹ May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband.” ... But Naomi said, “Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? ¹² Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons— ¹³ would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD’s hand has gone out against me!” ...But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me.” ¹⁸ When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

- Identify earthly reasons Naomi had to urge Ruth to go back to her homeland?
- Identify some earthly reasons people may have to live only for this life and not for God.
- In your own words, what was Ruth’s motivation for choosing to live as a foreigner in Israel despite the earthly difficulty?
- Like Ruth, what is the Christian’s motivation for living as a foreigner in this life despite the difficulty?

Ruth 4:13-22 So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. Then he went to her, and the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. ¹⁴ The women said to Naomi: “Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! ¹⁵ He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth.” ¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child, laid him in her lap and cared for him. ¹⁷ The women living there said, “Naomi has a son.” And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David. ¹⁸ This, then, is the family line of Perez: Perez was the father of Hezron, ¹⁹ Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, ²⁰ Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, ²¹ Salmon the father of Boaz, Boaz the father of Obed, ²² Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David.

- Highlight the most important details in Ruth’s “eulogy.” Imagine how this portion of Scripture may have looked differently if she had instead focused on human concerns in Chapter 1.

CLOSING ACTIVITY

What will they say? In the introductory activity, we thought about what people might say about our lives after we die. Much of our life as Christians is lived among the body of Christ, in a local congregation. Share some nice things you've heard or remember about sainted Christians who served in ways big and small in our church.