

A Vision for Disciplemaking

Key Men's Conference

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Stewardship of Time

Peter Axup

“Then said Jesus unto them: When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. And He that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone, for I do always those things that please Him.” John 8:28-29

Making the Most of Your Time¹

We get 24 hours a day, but often feel like we need more. Jesus left an example for deciding how to spend time in the face of demands and opportunities. He said “no” to some—and “yes” to others. Come and see what the Bible says about our use of time.

Haggai 1:5-6². How do you feel about your ability to keep up with the demands on your time?

We are stewards of the time God has given us.

Ephesians 5:15-17. Therefore, be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, [16] making the most of your time, because the days are evil. [17] So then, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Wisdom about time.

Revelation 21:3-4. Is this time all there is?

Proverbs 27:1. Can you guarantee your tomorrow?

Psalms 90:10. Is your time limited?

Ecclesiastes 11:6. How good is your judgment about the right time?

Wisdom about use of time.

Luke 10:38-42. Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. [39] She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord’s feet, listening to His word. [40] But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me.” [41] But the Lord answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; [42] but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”

What did Martha choose? What did Mary choose? What did Jesus say about Mary’s choice?

Micah 7:7. Is waiting on God a waste of time?

Galatians 6:7-10. How does time affect consequences?

John 5:44. What can meeting the expectations of men cost us?

Psalms 127:1-2. Throwing time at problems is a common reaction; is it the right answer?

Psalms 27:4. How does this characterize a fulfilled life?

¹ A Key Men’s Invitational workshop by Peter Axup, 2004 February 19-22

² All Bible verses are from the New American Standard Bible Update, © The Lockman Foundation

How did Jesus decide how to spend His time?

Mark 1:32-39. And when evening had come, after the sun had set, they began bringing to Him all who were ill and those who were demon-possessed. [33] And the whole city had gathered at the door. [34] And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He was not permitting the demons to speak, because they knew who He was. [35] And in the early morning, while it was still dark, He arose and went out and departed to a lonely place, and was praying there. [36] And Simon and his companions hunted for Him; [37] and they found Him, and said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You." [38] And He said to them, "Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, in order that I may preach there also; for that is what I came out for." [39] And He went into their synagogues throughout all Galilee, preaching and casting out the demons.

What need was presented to Jesus? Were the needs few or many?

Was Jesus able to meet the need? Was the demand from strangers or friends?

What was the decision that Jesus faced? What decision did Jesus make?

How was Jesus able to make this decision? Psalm 5:3

Traps.

Ecclesiastes 5:5. Avoid open ended commitments.
Instant answer is "no." Considered answer could be "yes."

Techniques.

Collect data: Keep a log in ½ hour increments for a week
Tithe your time

Homework for the Curious Student

"...not as unwise men but as wise..."
Time takes a toll, 2 Corinthians 4:16
God is sovereign over time, Daniel 2:20-23
Takes away opportunities, Amos 8:11-12
Accumulates benefits, Proverbs 21:5
Do first things first, Proverbs 24:27
Do some things quickly, Psalm 119:59-60
Do some things slowly, Proverbs 19:11
Do some things all the time, Psalm 119:97
Never do some things, Romans 12:19
Observe special times, Deuteronomy 24:5

"...understand...the will of the Lord..."
Knowing God, John 17:3
Peace, John 14:27

Joy, John 15:11
Contentment, Philippians 4:11-12
Love & obedience, John 14:21
Good works, Ephesians 2:10
Abundance, Psalm 66:8-12

Traps
Unexamined traditions, 1 Peter 1:17-19
Obsession with ministry, Luke 10:17-20
Investing in things, Matthew 6:19-21
Dissipation, Ephesians 5:18
Worry about survival, Matthew 6:25-27
You cannot have it all, Matthew 16:25-26
Offering sacrifice, 1 Samuel 15:22-23