

# Stewardship 101

## Lesson 6

### Time

#### PART I EXPLANATION

**Introduction:** We live lives at a hectic pace and despite having a multitude of time saving devices we oftentimes are still unable to find the time to do the things that are most important. In order to be good stewards we are challenged to redeem (buy up and use wisely) the time that God has given to us. Therefore we must determine which uses of our time are most beneficial. Stephen Covey, in his book “First Things First” helps us to identify and improve our time management by prioritizing and categorizing the daily use of our time. He gives four categories to help classify the use of our time: urgent/important, urgent/not important, not urgent/important, and not urgent/not important. This helps to determine the most efficient use of our time.

The first group “urgent/important” are emergencies and things that demand instant attention. These are first priority tasks that cannot be dismissed and are areas that we cannot conserve without neglecting responsibilities and having major consequences. An example would be a broken bone or the mortgage payment that is due. The second group “urgent/not important” is an area that we end up wasting a lot of time on because they are urgent and demand immediate attention, even though they are not necessarily important. Examples would be the phone ringing, children asking for something, or someone knocking at the door. These cannot be totally neglected but can likely be minimized to allow other things to take priority.

The third group “not urgent/important” is the most critical area to manage efficiently. Proper use of this time is the key to prioritizing and will lead to successful time management. These are the areas that we like to procrastinate because they are not urgent even though they are important. Examples include: prayer, meditation, and Bible reading, exercise, quality time with our spouse and kids, changing the oil etc. By doing the necessary maintenance it prevents the need for repairs; whether in relationships, the workplace, or our spiritual life. Neglect of this area will eventually and certainly lead to problems. Failure to do spiritual maintenance leads to a rise in stress and the increased need for recreation to function on a daily basis which is only a short term fix. If you can successfully establish a schedule where the not urgent but important things are taken care of, the number of urgent/important emergencies will decrease.

The final group “not urgent/not important” is the area where we are completely wasting time. This is where you borrow time to spend in the third group. This is time spent for no purpose. That is not to say that all recreation is not important. There is a level of rest and relaxation that needs to be scheduled and taken because it is important, but that is in group three.

Effective time management is very similar to financial management. To be a good steward you must proactively determine where your time is best spent. When we do a thorough analysis of our time we usually discover that the small chunks of time add up over the course of a week. There is no way to lengthen a week to balance our time budget. Therefore, we must discover areas where we can use our time more effectively. The Bible challenges us to redeem our time for the most effective uses. All of the important spiritual disciplines fall into the “not urgent/important” category. Therefore, it requires a conscious and persistent effort to ensure that we not allow the vapor of our life to pass without investing in the eternal.

**Definitions:** *For English use the Webster’s 1828 Dictionary and copy all appropriate definitions for each word. For the Greek and Hebrew use a Strong’s Concordance and copy the definition. The Strong’s number is in parenthesis.*

English: **Time** -

**Redeem -**

**Procrastinate -**

Greek: (5550) **chronos** *khron'-os*

(2250) **hemera** *hay-mer'-ah*

Hebrew: (6256) **eth** *ayth*

(3118) **yom** *yome*

**Quotation:**

“The men who have done the most for God in this world have been early on their knees. He who fritters away the early morning, its opportunity and freshness, in other pursuits than seeking God will make poor headway seeking Him the rest of the day. If God is not first in our thoughts and efforts in the morning, He will be in the last place the remainder of the day.

Behind this early rising and early praying is the ardent desire which presses us into this pursuit after God. Morning listlessness is the index to a listless heart. The heart which is behind-hand in seeking God in the morning has lost its relish for God...A desire for God which cannot break the chains of sleep is a weak thing and will do but little good for God after it has indulged itself fully. The desire for God that keeps so far behind the devil and the world at the beginning of the day will never catch up.” E.M. Bounds

“Lost time is never found again” Anonymous

“There is none so old but thinks he may live one year longer; and though, in the general, he say, “All must die,” yet, in the false numbering of his own particular days, he thinks to live for ever.” Nehemiah Rogers

“Pray that thy last days, and last works may be the best; and that when thou comest to die, thou mayest have nothing else to do but die.” Vavasor Powell

## **PART II EXPLORATION**

**Key Questions** (*Answer in writing*)

1. What does it mean to redeem the time?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. List and define the four ways we can categorize our time.



\_\_\_ with Him one \_\_\_ because the flesh is \_\_\_ .

John 9:4 Jesus was busy working while there was opportunity because the time is coming when no man can \_\_\_ .

Romans 13:11-13 Now is the time to awake from \_\_\_ for now is our salvation \_\_\_ than when we were saved. The night is far \_\_\_ and the day is at \_\_\_ therefore, we should \_\_\_ off the works of \_\_\_ and put on the armor of \_\_\_ .

Colossians 4:5 We need to walk in \_\_\_ toward the unsaved and redeem or use wisely the \_\_\_ that God has given to us.

James 4:13-17 James rebukes those who make plans for the future without consideration of the Lord's \_\_\_ . He reminds us that our life is a \_\_\_ or puff of smoke that only appears for a \_\_\_ time and then \_\_\_ . Him that knows to use the time wisely and doesn't, to him it is \_\_\_ .

I Peter 1:17 We should view our life as a sojourn and pass our time in \_\_\_ .

I Peter 4:7 Peter learned from the experience in the garden with Christ that the \_\_\_ of all things is near, therefore, we should \_\_\_ unto prayer.

**Key Chapter(s)** (*Read daily and summarize in your own words the meaning of the chapter*):

Ecclesiastes 3

### **PART III EXPECTATION**

**Memory verse:** Romans 13:11

**Personal Definition:** (*Write a definition in your own words*)

Time –

**Personal Application:** Make a list of the things in your life that are 'not urgent, but important'.

**Meditation question:** (*be prepared for discussion*) What is the most important use of your time?

**Extra Credit:** Write out a daily schedule that will budget your time to be used efficiently.