

BIBLE STUDY LESSON

SUBJECT: “LEARNING HOW TO NUMBER YOUR DAYS”

SCRIPTURE TEXT: “PSALMS 90: 1-12”

By Bishop Dr. Julian E. Turner, Sr.

INTRODUCTION:

Psalm 90:12: Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

This is one of the most neglected verses of the Bible, yet it is one of the most important. We do not know how to number our days, at least from the ways we live on daily basis, it shows clearly that despite our education, civilization, and computerized knowledge of counting, we still do not know how to count the number of our days.

This is very unfortunate as many who thought that they still have many days to spend on earth, and do what they like, found out to their surprise that they have miscalculated at the end. The truth is that whatever days that have been lost due to miscalculation or unprofitable engagements cannot be regained back (Ephesians 5:16).

The first thing we need to know from this verse is that **God gave to us days, and not years, as many people have come to believe. Some are counting years, but God the owner of our lives is counting days.** Your days on earth are numbered, whether you want to agree with that or not.

When we celebrate our birthdays, we always count the number of years we are marking, the truth of the matter is, that number of years we are marking had been taking away from the number of days we were given on earth, hence it not worth much celebration, at least not in the way majority of us do it.

When you have the understanding of God on how to spend your days you will know that you are not allowed to spend it anyhow. You have a very short time here on earth compared to where you are going after your departure (eternity). It is what you do here that will prepare you for that eternity.

(Cont. 2)

Hence the book of [Ecclesiastes 12:13](#) says: “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it is good, or whether it is evil.”

ILLUSTRATION: Suppose you find out today what someone said about you, and it is untrue, unfair and unkind. Your feelings are hurt. You want to say something bad about him or her in return. But if you stop and number your days, it changes your reaction. You’re not as likely to want retribution, your anger dissipates, and your stress goes down. When you remember to number your days, you realize that someone’s hurtful words cannot affect your numberless days yet to come. It won’t matter in eternity; it probably won’t matter next week!

But God is teaching me to number my days when I’m criticized unfairly; I say to myself: “[What difference does it make, Turner? Life is short; you have other eternally important things to do.](#)”

We don’t like to think about the fact that our days here on this earth are numbered. Oh, we all know the number behind us—how many days we’ve lived already. [But thinking about how many are left—well, that’s not something we think about too often.](#) **In fact, most of us live as though our days are without number.**

In [Psalm 39](#) David wrote: “[Show me, O Lord, my life’s end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life.](#)”

And in [Psalm 90](#) Moses prayed: “[Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.](#)”

These men of God were not asking for a gift of prophecy, but rather for a change in perspective. They understood that [living in the knowledge of how brief life is becomes a life-changing attitude, and they recognized that this attitude doesn’t come naturally to anyone.](#) **So, they prayed for the ability to number their days.**

(Cont. 3)

I. "WHY SHOULD WE WANT GOD TO TEACH US TO NUMBER OUR DAYS?"

ANSWER: [Psalm 90:12](#) says, "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." The request "Teach Us To Number Our Days" means that **we need God to reveal to us the brevity (shortness) of life**. That revelation will help us grow wise, and wisdom is important because the choices we make during our brief stay on earth have eternal consequences. The remainder of [Psalm 90](#) gives details about God's wrath against sin and about the meaning of life. Our earthly lives will not last long, and we need wisdom to prepare for what follows.

[Psalm 90](#) was written by Moses, a man with whom the Lord spoke "Face To Face, as a man speaks with his friend" ([Exodus 33:11](#); see also [Numbers 12:7-8](#)). Yet Moses wrote about the fierce anger of God against sin. He pleaded with the Lord to help humankind realize that we will all answer to God for deeds done in the body (cf. [2nd Corinthians 5:10](#)). In [Psalm 90:11](#), Moses writes, "If only we knew the power of your anger!" Moses was a man who knew God better than most mortals, yet he had experienced the sting of God's punishment for his sin and yearned to help others avoid it ([Numbers 20:12](#)).

Jesus gave a [parable](#) that also explains what happens when we don't "Number Our Days." In [Luke 12:19-21](#) He describes a rich man who wanted only to "eat, drink, and be merry" and had no time or thought for God. The rich man believed he had years yet to enjoy his pleasures, but God required his soul that very night. If the rich man had learned to "Number His Days," he would have pursued ventures that had eternal significance. We can learn from this parable that none of us know how many days we will be granted, so we must not waste them on silly, selfish pursuits that have no real value.

God's desire for human beings is that we learn, grow, and seek wisdom ([Proverbs 2](#)). As we learn to number our days, we will share that desire. We were created to walk in [fellowship with God](#), discovering the mysteries and delights He has scattered throughout creation the way a parent scatters Easter eggs for a toddler.

(Cont. 4)

The Lord enjoys partnering with us as we pursue all He designed for us to accomplish ([Psalm 37:23](#); [Ephesians 2:10](#)). When we live in harmony with Him, death is simply a change of address. Our enjoyment of Him continues unabated when we step from this life into [eternity](#).

Those who have learned to number their days spend them in pursuit of wisdom, goodness, and the kingdom of God ([Matthew 6:33](#)). They don't have to fear the wrath of God when their earthly lives are over. Jesus came to earth to make a way for us to be made right with God ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#)). But He won't force His gift of eternal life on anyone ([John 3:16–18](#)). Those who never learn to number their days spend them as if this life is all there is. [Psalm 90](#) warns them about the [judgment](#) they are destined to undergo ([Hebrews 9:27](#)). But when we learn to number our days, we see each day as a valuable gift and an opportunity to store up treasure in heaven ([Luke 12:33](#); [Revelation 22:12](#)).

II. SIX REASONS TO NUMBER YOUR DAYS

The key to numbering our days carefully is to remain closely connected to the Savior in prayer, Bible study, and fellowship.

Reason #1) Tomorrow Isn't Promised To You

"Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes" (James 4:14).

The sudden [Death](#) of a loved one reminds us of our mortality on this earth. How could it be that someone we see with life be dead in minutes or days? Yet it happens every day and we are reminded that we must work every day for the Lord as if it was our last. Not in a frenzied panic, but rather thoughtful and careful consideration to how we spend our days as we don't know for sure it could be our last one on this earth.

Reason #2) Life On Earth Could Be Shorter Than You Think

"But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" (Luke 12:20).

(Cont. 5)

The rich fool invested much of his time and effort towards building earthly riches—only to find himself unable to breathe one moment longer than God allowed. We are not only aware of our own mortality but of the brevity of life of people younger than us. We can be responsible in our savings, investing, and preparing for our families just in case the Lord calls us home. However we must also spiritually invest enough so that we won't be lacking in heaven due to poor planning.

Reason #3) Many Missed Opportunities Can't Be Restored

“While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.” (Hebrews 3:15).

The problem with decisions we make in life is that we may not always get a second chance. If we miss opportunities of divine callings, we may never get to redo that moment. When Moses hit the rock instead of speaking to it, God wouldn't allow him to enter the Promised Land even though Moses begged him to change His mind. While there is hope even after a missed calling, we must make the most of every opportunity.

Reason #4) Relationships With Family and Friends Could End Without Warning

“But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.” (Hebrews 3:13).

We can easily take our family and friends for granted—assuming that they will always be around and available. Yet that is not the case, our closest companions could be snatched away at a moment's notice and we don't want our last memory to be overwhelmed with regret. We Love, Hug, and Speak Tenderly to those who God has placed us around knowing that we don't always get a second chance in our relationships.

Reason #5) All Earthly Possessions Have Limited Value Compared To Heavenly Rewards

“And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesses.” Lk. 12:15

(Cont. 6)

Most of us have to work in one way or another to provide for ourselves and our family members. **However, we must remember that our earthly possessions aren't going with us to heaven.** We have need of things for survival, yet we must be careful to not put too much value into them. **Instead we should use our financial increases to further the gospel of Jesus—Leading To The Eternal Rewards Of Seeing Many People Come To Christ.**

Reason #6) Future Reward Awaits Those Who Make The Most Of Their Time In The Lord

“Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; ¹³ Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.” (1st Corinthians 3:12-13).

There are rewards for those who are in Christ Jesus. He will give to each of us based on the measure of the work we completed in His name. **We number our days in order to accommodate God's will and plan for our lives.** Just as getting a promotion and pay raise are significant in this world—it will be of even more significance when we get to heaven.

Therefore, Number your Days Carefully

Since tomorrow isn't promised to us, we can take hope that our God is the God of the past, present, and future. He makes all grace abound towards those who love Him to accomplish His purpose for their lives. **The key to numbering our days carefully is to remain closely connected to the Savior In Prayer, Bible Study, and Fellowship.**

III. GOT WISDOM?

Brothers and Sisters, in order to gain the **Wisdom** that we long for, we must **Pray**. You see, **Prayer Is The Fountain Of Wisdom. Wisdom Is Tightly Tied To Prayer in the Scriptures. Wisdom Is Asked For In Prayer, Often Received During Prayer, and Wisdom Is The Result Of Prayer.**

(Cont. 7)

We see this very famously in King Solomon who, as he begins his kingship, asks God for wisdom, and God answers his request abundantly. We see this in James chapter one, where we are told to pray to God for wisdom and with great faith that he will answer our prayers.

In Psalm 90 we see this in Moses, who prays, “So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom” (verse 12). Moses is one of the great people of God in all of history, and there is only one psalm attributed to him. At the heart, at the climax of this psalm, we see him praying for wisdom. What’s interesting is that he asks God to teach him to number his days.

Saints, if we would have the wisdom that we long for, We Must Pray. And specifically, if we want to be wise, we need to learn to number our days.

How do we do this ourselves? What does it mean to number our days? And how will numbering our days bring us wisdom?

Learning to number our days means Recognizing The Unnumbered Days Of God (verses 1-2).

God is the Creator; We Are Created. God Is Eternal; Our Lives Are Passing. God’s Days Are Without End; But Our Days Are Numbered!

“Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. ² Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.” (verses 1-2)

This immediately puts us in position to be wise. How? Because it teaches us where wisdom will come from. There is a being far greater than ourselves, far greater than any other human, and certainly greater than any other idea or philosophy in all of creation. Therefore, This Being Must Be The Source Of ALL Wisdom.

He Has Wisdom To Offer To Us That We Cannot Offer To Ourselves. He has wisdom to offer us what nothing in all of creation can offer us. God Is The Source Of Wisdom. When we prayerfully consider God’s unnumbered days, we gain wisdom because we will know where to look for it.

(Cont. 8)

Surely, That Is The Beginning Of Wisdom: To Quit Looking At Ourselves, To Quit Trusting The World, and Instead To Look To God. **Learn To Pray, Lord, “From Everlasting To Everlasting Thou art God!”**

Learning to number our days means remembering that our lives are fleeting **(last a short time)**. (verses 3-6).

Here is what we read in **Psalm 90** about the transience of our lives:

You return man to dust and say, **“Return, O Children Of Man!”** For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night. You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. (verses 3-6)

Our lives are like dust, like a watch in the night, like a sweeping flood, and like a passing dream. Our lives are like the grass, renewed in the morning, and withered by night.

Saints, grasping this truth is the great secret to wisdom. I consider some of the wisest people I’ve ever met, and what they have in common. All of them have understood the brevity of human life:

The child in the children’s hospital who already has a stirring faith in Jesus Christ. It’s because this is a child who has quickly learned to number their days.

The teenager who is **“Wise Beyond Their Years.”** It’s because, unlike other teenagers, they don’t think they have years to waste because they know their life is fleeting.

The older believer who doesn’t waste away in retirement, but invests those last years for the Lord. Almost everything he utters is wise because he doesn’t see these years as years to waste. He numbers his days!

What about you? Have you considered the brevity of your life?

Learning to number our days means prayerfully considering the wrath of God (verses 7-11).

(Cont. 9)

How many of us pray about the wrath of God? Most of us try to avoid this theme altogether. But look at how Moses prays to God plainly about it: “For we are consumed by thine anger, and by thy wrath are we troubled. ⁸ Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance. ⁹ For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told. ¹⁰ The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. ¹¹ Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath.” (verses 7-11)

In Moses’ prayerfulness about God’s wrath we see what it means to fear the Lord. **Holy reverence comes when we understand our sin and God’s holiness and anger towards that sin. Understanding This Reality Makes Us Reverent Before Him.** This is not being afraid of God. **This is a deep awe and reverence that makes us want to honor him.**

Consider how much more wisely we would live if we remembered that God sees Everything – Even what we think is done in secret! **We too often think that we can live anonymously, and we are sinful and foolish because of it. But as we fear the Lord and honor him with holy reverence, we will be wise.** It’s why the Bible says again and again, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Proverbs 1:7).

Please don’t miss the joy attached to this truth. Because we know the power of God’s anger, we know that his wrath against sin was poured out upon Christ on the cross. **We know that his wrath and anger live in harmony with the greatest act of love and grace in all of history!**

Yes, God Hates Sin and Must Punish It In Order To Be Righteous, Just, and Good. But for all who receive Jesus Christ as their Savior, God will not pour out his wrath upon them. Instead he has already poured it out upon his Son. It Is At The Cross Where Wrath And Mercy Meet!

Saints, as you seek to walk in wisdom, ask yourself this: Am I Numbering My Days? What In My Life Would Change If I Did?

(Cont. 10)

Today, Prayerfully Consider The Eternal Nature Of Your Creator, The Fleeting Reality Of Your Life, and The Just Wrath of God. Pray Psalm 90 When You Need Wisdom. Learn To Number Your Days!

IV. LEARNING TO NUMBER YOUR DAYS

As the present year draws to a close we are reminded once again of the relentless procession of time. Whether we like it or not, we are being carried onward through the years of our life, until we finally reach the end of it. As the years come and go, there comes a day when our time in this world will be no more. Our years will have passed away for ever, and we will never ever see them again.

So what should we do? Psalm 90:12 says “So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.” To number your days is to keep careful watch over your time with the same kind of care and attention that you would give to budgeting and balancing your accounts, making sure there are always enough funds to make payments for the housing loan, the utilities, telephone bill, daily provisions, medicine and transport. The more limited your income is, the more you would want to ensure that you are making the best use of it.

'Numbering Our Days' is simply applying that same kind of discipline, but now with time instead of money. It means optimizing the limited time you have left, planning your activities carefully and deciding what activities deserve more time and what deserve less. It also means trying to save time whenever possible, so that no hour is ever wasted. As the apostle Paul wrote in [Ephesians 5:15,16](#), you should “Walk Circumspectly, Not As Fools, But As Wise, Redeeming The Time, Because The Days Are Evil.”

If you do not keep careful track of where your time is spent, you will find it difficult to accomplish everything that you need to do. You will always be complaining that you do not have enough time. Perhaps there have been times when the twenty-four hours of the day do not seem to be enough for you and you wished that you had a thirty-six-hour day or an eight-day week.

(Cont. 11)

But the problem is often not a lack of time, but **Poor Time Management**. If you find yourself unable to fulfill your responsibilities because of what seems to be a shortage of time, it probably means that you are not managing your time well. Let us consider now how we can number our days.

A. Important Presuppositions

1. Your purpose in spending any time you have must always be to glorify God.

1st Corinthians 6:20 “For ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” 1st Corinthians 10:31 “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

2. Since God has a plan for the life you have committed to Him, He has allotted all the time that is necessary for you to fulfill all that He expects you to do according to His plan. Psalm 31:15 – “My Times Are In Thy hand (Discuss) ... The Lord is like a wise employer who tells his workers: “Here is the work you are to do, and here are the sufficient resources you will need to do it.”

We see this principle at work in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ when He was on earth. **Within the three years of ministry He had, He fulfilled everything that He came to do - to preach the kingdom of God, train the twelve disciples and to make atonement for sin by His death on the cross.** The Gospel accounts show that Christ was always concerned about doing the right thing at the right time. For example, Early in His ministry when His own half-brothers suggested that He should go to Judea and make Himself known to the world by doing miracles there, He replied, “My time is not yet come: but your time is always ready.” (John 7:6) We must train our minds to think that there will always be sufficient time for us to do all that we have to do.

3. If the 24 hours of each day or the 168 hours of each week seem to be inadequate for you, then this may be due to one of two causes: (a) You have missed the will of God for your life, and you are doing something He never intended you to do, or (b) You are doing things inefficiently – Not the way that God wants you to do them.

(Cont. 12)

We see an example of the first cause in Mary and Martha “Now it came to pass, as they went, that He entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard His word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to Him, and said, Lord, dost Thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. **And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.**” (Luke 10:38-42)

Many of us are perhaps more like Martha than Mary - cumbered about much serving, and not taking time to think whether what we are doing is really needful or not. We trouble ourselves with things that the Lord does not require nor expect from us.

An example of the second cause can be found in Moses when he was overwhelmed with judging the people of Israel alone, until he implemented the more efficient method proposed by his father-in-law, Jethro (Exodus 18:13-27).

B. Practical Steps

Step One: Set Your Priorities

All your activities can be categorized either as basic responsibilities or extra activities. Basic responsibilities are absolutely necessary and must be cared for, in this order:

(a) Fellowship With God. This is the greatest priority of all, because it is the ultimate basis of life, and the reason for our creation and redemption. It is the essence not only of time but of eternity. **Matthew 6:33** – “**But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**” **Colossians 3:1,2** – “**If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.**” In This Responsibility There Is **Personal Fellowship With God, Family Worship Time, and Fellowship With Other Members Of God's Family.**

(Cont. 13)

Apart from worshipping God on Sunday, **you should also spend time each day of the week reading and meditating upon God's Word, Reflecting Upon Your Conduct, and Praying - In Order To Maintain Close Fellowship With God - This is Known As Personal Devotion or Quiet Time.** [Martin Luther](#) considered the priority of devotion to God the most important element in his daily routine, and believed that if he did not place it first in the day nor spend a sufficient amount of time on it, **the rest of his day would be disrupted.** How ironic that so many of us hesitate to spend even **15 minutes with the Lord,** fearing that we would have too little time for anything else, never realizing that the success of our day depends on our quiet time.

(b) Maintenance of Physical Life. If one does not have physical life, he cannot do anything else. It is essential to take care of the physical by having sufficient meals, exercise and rest. [1st Corinthians 6:19](#) **“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?”**

(c) Duty Toward Family. [1st Timothy 5:8](#) – **“But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.”** This applies not only to those who work and have family commitments, but also for children - when parents assign them duties to help out in the home.

Contrary to what many people think, the responsibilities that you have in your place of work or study come after all of the above. **If you are a worker, you need to fulfill your obligations to your employer.** [Colossians 3:22](#) – **“Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God.”** **If you are a student, you ought to put in good effort in your studies, not so much for good grades or to get into a prestigious institution of higher learning, but to get yourself fully equipped with the knowledge you need to fulfill your God-given vocation in life.**

The rest of the activities are to be considered as extra activities. **These are things that you should make time for only when they do not prevent you from fulfilling your basic responsibilities.**

(Cont. 14)

They include the following:

(1.) Additional Church Commitments: If you are requested to take on more commitments **In Church beside your basic commitments of Worship, Prayer, Personal Bible study, Fellowship and Witnessing, Ensure That You Count The Cost First (Luke 14:28-30).** You need to Manage Your Time carefully if you are given responsibilities in church that require constant Heavy Time Commitment, e.g. Handling Church Finances, or Teaching A Bible class. **Do not jump into a ministry that you know you cannot do well, with a good conscience toward God.**

(2.) Additional Work or School Activities: For example, going for further training or studies to improve your job skills. Include these in your schedule only if they fit. Next in priority are the extras that you may plan for your friends and loved ones, like birthdays, anniversaries, and weddings. These can mean so much in maintaining good personal relationships.

(3.) Personal Recreation. This includes games and hobbies. Choose only those that will be beneficial for improving your mental, social, emotional and physical well-being.

Step Two: Examine For Inefficiency:

After all your activities have been arranged in order of priority, it is time to **examine each activity for efficiency.** For example, it is more efficient to settle some administrative transactions on-line than to spend much time waiting in a line. And if you have no choice but to wait in a long line, use that time to catch up with some profitable reading or thinking.

To be efficient, look for the best and fastest way to accomplish your tasks. For example, Spending some time to tidy and organize your environment will eliminate hours spent looking for items. If you have examined each activity for maximum efficiency, but you find that your time is still inadequate, then proceed to the next step.

(Cont. 15)

Step Three: Start at the Bottom and Cut

Do not cut back on the time that is allotted for basic responsibilities, but on the time allotted for the extra activities (as listed above). Learn to say "NO" to unimportant time-consuming activities without feeling guilty. **The hardest person to say 'no' to may be yourself!** Many find themselves with too little time because they give in too easily to indulging themselves with extras.

But if you really believe that God has planned your life and that He has provided all the time resources needed to fulfill your responsibilities then **you must be prepared to obey Him in refusing those activities that are not of Him, and working more efficiently in those which are of Him.**

Step Four: Implement Time Management Day by Day

Implementing these priorities and principles of time management in your daily life requires some skill, because most people can only concentrate and give undivided attention to one thing at a time. **And so, we need to make appropriate adjustments to the way we spend our time, according to the changing needs.** For example, if you are a student and your exams are coming very close, then you would need to apportion less time to other things in order to give greater priority to studying. And when exams are over, you can then apportion more time for other needful things.

But this skill can be acquired with experience. **It is like preparing a meal which includes a few dishes. First you turn your attention to getting the ingredients, thawing the meat, and cutting the vegetables. Then you get the rice washed. After that you turn your attention to preparing one dish, and while that is being cooked in the oven, you prepare something else. At the right time you turn on the rice cooker, etc.**

And if you do not want to lose track of all your many responsibilities and tasks, keep a **"To Do List"** handy at all times. Write everything you need to do in it, and look forward to deleting tasks when they are completed!

(Cont. 16)

Starting well is not good enough. You need to maintain the effort of applying these **4 Steps** in a disciplined manner in order to make the best use of your time.

How do you maintain this? By reminding yourself from the Word of God that your time is limited and very precious, and that you must use it wisely. **The year 2021 will be here soon,** and with it, another 365 days of time. **How will you use it?** “So, teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”

CLOSING ILLUSTRATION: “WHAT ARE YOU INVESTING YOUR DAYS & TIME IN?”

In St. Matthew 25: 14-30, Jesus told the story of a man who went on a journey and left his money with his servants. This was not an uncommon thing in those days. A wealthy man or a ruler would have many servants in his household, from those who performed basic labor to those who managed the financial affairs of his household, even his business. In many cases some of the man’s servants would be better educated and skilled than he was. Highly trusted slaves had a virtual free hand within prescribed areas of responsibility while the owner was at home.

When the owner would go on a journey, he would leave full authority in the hands of these key servants, who would have the ancient equivalent of a power of attorney. So, Jesus described a scenario in which a wealthy man went on a journey and left the key servants in charge of his possessions. It’s difficult for us to know exactly what sum he left them, but one possibility is that he gave the equivalent of **\$5,000** to the first servant, **\$2,000** to the second servant, and **\$1,000** to the third.

In this story, **the first servant took what he had, invested it, and received a 100 Percent Return. He doubled his master’s investment.** The second, though he had less, did the same thing.

This demonstrates that it isn’t a person’s talent that matters as much as how he or she uses that talent. God never demands from us the abilities we don’t have. But He does demand that we should use, to the full, the abilities that we do possess. We may not be equal in talent, but we should be equal in effort.

(Cont. 17)

Take what God has given to you and do the most that you can with it for his glory. God can do a lot with a little.

If you don't believe me, just ask **the boy with the five loaves and two fish who gave everything he had to Jesus**. It didn't seem like a lot, but **Jesus used them to feed a hungry multitude**. **Jesus can take a little, bless it and multiply it**. He can use it beyond our wildest dreams.

V. HOW ARE YOU INVESTING YOUR LIFE?

This is what my **Theology Professor** would refer to as **God's Economy**. **An Economic System That Was Not Regulated In Currency But In Something Totally Different And Much More Valuable**. **Jesus did not come from heaven to be born of a virgin, to live among humanity so that we could have a financial return on our investments, but so that mankind could be redeemed from death to life**. **God dwelt among mankind to restore humanity**. **Humanity and Life Is The Economy That God Cares About**. **All of our perceived wealth and wealth creation is worthless in the eyes of God, if what we invest our lives in does not promote life**.

The servant that was a steward over the livelihood of five families was able to invest the resources he was given to provide for an additional five, the one with two could provide for an additional two. Suddenly the community grew from eight to fifteen, consider that for a moment. We have each been entrusted with life, we each have at bear minimum one talent to invest into this world. We have our one life. The question is how are we going to use it?

How are we going to invest our lives? When we consider our individual lives thing begin to get more complex. **How we invest our lives reflects what we hold as most important**. **Consider a conversation you may have had with someone you did not know before, what are the things you talked about?** You probably exchanged names, more than likely right after names were exchanged the discussion moved toward our employment or what we retired from, and generally the conversation dwindles from there.

(Cont. 18)

Our identities all too often are attached to our careers, our identity and our social standing is derived from a twisted economy where value is measured by currency and the ability to amass more currency.

That part of our lives are tools that we use in bringing about who we truly are. Currency is a tool, wealth is a tool. It is no different than any other tool when we look the bigger picture. The dollar is like a shovel, how many people have devoted their lives to the savings of shovels? But a shovel is an important tool a shovel when used properly can dig the foundation for a house for someone to live in, it can provide an opportunity to make clean water available to a remote village, and it can give someone a way to feed their family.

I bring this up because the resources, every resource we have available to us is important. They are important only because those resources can be invested into lives. And life is what God is interested in. Are we investing our talents into the lives of our community or are we burying our talents in a hole? Along with that question is another, are we actively participating in the investment or are we just speaking words?

This is not cheap grace or easy discipleship, but an actual cross to bear. So often our words are gilded with scripture but our actions speak something totally different. How often have we heard words spoken saying, "I'm Pro-life" yet have not opened our homes to house a child whose parents' are unable to support them? How often do we hear that we should help the poor from people that would never open their doors or tables up to someone in need?

We are stewards of the master's property only stewards. We have been blessed with talents to invest not in ourselves but into the lives of other. What will the master say when he returns? To the ones that expanded the influence of the master he said, "Enter into the joy of your master." But to the ones that bury their resources and refuse to invest in life, those are wicked and lazy servant who will lose everything. What does it cost to be a disciple of Christ? What is the cost of being a friend of Jesus? It takes belief that the belief goes beyond knowledge and trust, the belief that we will entrust all we have and all we are into our master's business.

(Cont. 19)

It takes us learning that business by participating in the very life that Jesus himself showed us. It takes us investing all that we have to bring light into the darkness, hope to the hopeless, and healing to the broken. **To be a disciple of Christ our actions and our words reflect each other, our careers are tools that we use to minister, and our very lives are lived so that His will will be done on Earth as it is in heaven.** And that starts with each of us individually turning to him, it continues by us corporately walking together and encouraging each other to walk that journey with Christ, and it returns when we share in the joy of service.

If we will humble ourselves, take what we have and offer it to God, if we will be willing to do what he has placed before us and be faithful in the little things, then he will give us more to do. I would rather try and fail than never try at all. Any time you take a chance, you can fail. But it's better to try than to never take chances and never have anything happen in your life.

So, seize the day. Seize the moment. Seize the opportunities before you. Don't put it off too long, because you may not have as much time as you think. Be productive with your life. **Be productive with your time. Seize the opportunities God has given you.**

I don't know if you ever watched the reality show called [Hoarders](#). It tells stories of people who hoard everything in their houses. **A hoarder is a person that feels the need to find, collect, pack and keep everything because they do not know how to throw things away. Some people are spiritual hoarders. They don't know how to give themselves away. But God wants us to give ourselves away.** God doesn't want us to be hoarders. **He wants us to give ourselves away in service to him and others. If God has blessed us, he wants us to share his blessing with others.**

Years ago hermits or ascetics would shut themselves off from the world to avoid the temptations of the world. They desired to get away from it all so they could worship, meditate, and focus all the attention on God. **They didn't want anybody or anything to divert their time with God.** But God doesn't want us to hide or hoard even our times of communion with him.

(Cont. 20)

Whatever God allows us to experience he wants us to pass it on to somebody else. **Invest your life in somebody else.**

Whatever we have God wants us to share it with others. **Even if God blesses you with a sweet hour of communion with him, he wants us to pass it on to somebody else. Don't hoard God's blessings.** Whatever he gives you, invest it in service to God and to others. **Jesus Christ Gave All For Us.** He wants us to invest ourselves in service to him and to others. **It's good to leave something that will last to other generations.**

Don't Be A Hoarder. Reach out and touch somebody's hand. Make this a better world if you can. Reach out and touch a soul that is hungry. Reach out and touch a life torn and dirty. Reach out and touch a friend who is weary. Reach out and touch someone who needs you. **Make a difference in somebody's life if you can. If you can help somebody as you travel along, if you can help somebody in word or song, and if you can help somebody from doing wrong, then your living shall not be in vain. Don't Be A Hoarder.** Share what you have with somebody else. Invest your life. Reach out and shed God's light in the darkness. Then your living will not be in vain.

What is Jesus' story saying to us? I think it's quite obvious. **Jesus is like that wealthy man who goes on a journey, which spans the day he left this earth to the day he returns in the Second Coming.** We are the servants he has invested in, and we are to take what he has given us and use it for his glory while we await his return.

What Are You Investing Your Days And Time In?

(Cont. 21)

CONCLUSION:

The days we are living in are harsh, difficult, painful at times, and hard to deal with. When we are simply going through the motions of life without any direction, we are susceptible to whatever the devil throws at us. **But when we are living diligently, with wisdom in knowing God's will and purpose, we are alert and watchful for the enemy's attacks.** We can be **“Wise As Serpents, and Harmless As Doves”** as Jesus instructed His disciples that they were to be in their interaction with those they would meet out in the world. **(Matt. 10:16)**

As believers in Christ Jesus, we are to be aware that **we have a purpose in living to fulfill the course of His will for our lifetimes.** In living each day we should be seeking His will, what He would have us to do and how He would have us to walk it out. We are to **“Redeem”** or buy back the time meaning that we are to be aware of not wasting our time, but using wisdom in how we conduct our affairs. **We are to walk diligently, regulating our lives making due use of opportunities by understanding what the will of the Lord is, because the days are full of labors, annoyances and hardships; of a time full of peril to Christian faith and steadfastness.**

Are you wondering today what God's will is for your life? **Romans 12:2** tells us to **“Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind”** that you will be able to **“Prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”** We can know God's will by **Spending Time In His word** and using it as our pattern for living life instead of what we see and hear out in the world. If we renew our minds to God's word, **He Will Reveal His Will Through It!** We can **KNOW** what God expects of us and the will and purpose for each of our lives by spending time with Him.

Learn NOW How To "Number Your Days" Amen.