

# Misplaced Time

## LECTURE

# 1

*Before Creation, time - as we know it - matter and space did not exist.  
Time belongs to God - we need to learn how to manage it!*

### Session Topics:

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>1. Personal Development</b> . . . . .   | <b>88</b> |
| Personal development begins with knowing Father, Son and Spirit.<br>Then you will obey. We are of value to God.  |           |
| <b>2. The use of Time.</b> . . . . .   | <b>89</b> |
| Misplaced Time   |           |
| <b>3. Symptoms of disorganisation</b> . . . . .  | <b>91</b> |
| Cluttered desk. Condition of car. Lowering of self-esteem. Forgetting.<br>Unproductive projects. Discontentment. Rare intimacy with God.<br>Breakdown of relationships. Self-hate. |           |
| <b>4. Budgeting Time</b> . . . . .   | <b>92</b> |
| Method of budgeting. Make decisions. Commitment.   |           |
| <b>5. The Lord of Time.</b> . . . . .  | <b>95</b> |
| Jesus understood His mission and own limits and budgeted time for the Twelve.  |           |

### Outcomes:

**After completing this session you should be able to -**

Recognise Time for the intangible resource it is, and capture it for your use in God's work as you develop personally.

### Objectives:

- **Have voluntary goals for personal development**  
Willingly relate to Father, Son and Spirit. Acknowledging our worth to Him.
- **Identify with the nature of Time**  
Understanding its intangibility. Knowing its value. Seeing Jesus as the Lord of Time.
- **Use Time effectively**  
Grasping every moment we can. Avoiding disorganisation. Setting goals with objectives. Learning to budget Time.

# I. Personal Development

**Matthew 22:37-39** *Jesus replied: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself. All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments.*

## 1.1 Develop a First Fruits Pattern

Personal development begins with your **love for God**. Loving God begins with realizing **His real worth and value** and not just knowing His superficial value. Understand the **Person** of God, His nature and His character which can be seen in Jesus Christ who is the express image of the Godhead.

Know God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit intimately

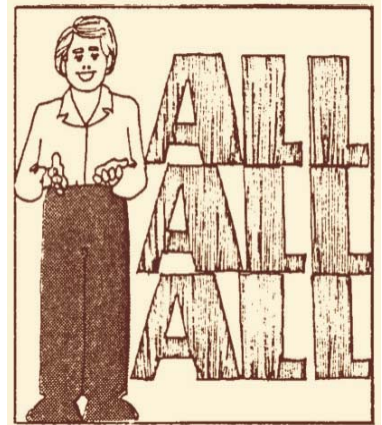
## 1.2 The Intensity of Your Love

The key word is **ALL**, not half or part or with reserve, but **all**. Some hold back on their love for God not realizing that **God demands all or nothing**. The lukewarm are spewed out of His mouth.

- ◆ ALL your **heart**
- ◆ ALL your **soul**
- ◆ ALL your **mind**
- ◆ ALL your **strength**

Those who love God **unreservedly** will develop personally: spiritually within themselves, mentally, emotionally and physically. Health, prosperity, eternal life, love, joy and peace are their inheritance.

When we draw near to God He draws near to us. We will be blessed in the city and in the country, in our coming in and going out, or wherever we are because this is the portion of those who love God.



## 1.3 If You Love You Will Obey

**1 John 3:21-24** *Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from Him anything we ask, because we obey His commands and do what pleases Him. And this is His command: TO BELIEVE in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ and to love one another as He commanded us. Those who obey His commands live in Him and He in them. And this is how we know that He lives in us: We know it by the Spirit He gave us.*

### ■ The Importance of Personal Development

**Matthew 22:39** *... love your neighbour as yourself ...*

The fact is that if **we do not love our neighbour** then **we ultimately do not love ourselves**. If we love our lives we will ultimately **lose our lives**. This might sound contradictory, but understand that if people live purely for themselves to the detriment of those around them then they actually do not value themselves. They have no understanding of the **real worth of mankind**.

Love your neighbour in the same proportion that you love yourself

### ■ The Real Worth of Man

God thought man was so valuable, even in his rebellious and lost state, that He sent His only begotten Son to save man from eternal destruction. God was willing to sacrifice His one and only Son, His most prized possession, for the sake of man.

**Romans 5:8** *But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

God looks beyond man's sinfulness, rebellion and enmity and sees man originally created in His likeness and seeks in grace to restore His nature and His character in man.

We are as valuable to God as his own Son is!

**Luke 23:34** *Jesus said; Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.*

Jesus Christ saw beyond the superficial face value of the **rebellion** and **cruelty** of the people abusing and mocking Him. He saw them as redeemable, and their souls as of more value than the whole world. (Matt 16:26) – Look beyond your failures!

**2 Corinth. 5:16,17** *So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, HE IS A NEW CREATION; the old has gone, the new has come.*

The terrible sight of the Lord Jesus hanging on the cross, mutilated, bloodied and suffering is the picture of the fate of sinful man. God condemned **sin in the flesh** through Jesus Christ on that cross, **but we no longer see Christ like this**. We now see Jesus Christ, **Risen** with a **glorified body**. In the same way we do not see any saved man in his filthy sinfulness, but as a **glorious new creature in Christ**.

The real value of man is the fact that he can become new

If we do not see **our real worth** and **value**, firstly, in our own sight, secondly, in God's sight and finally, in the sight of others, **how can we then see the real worth of those around us?** This is why it is so important to develop **personally**, because then we develop and edify ourselves.

***The importance of personal development is that it puts us in a position to meet needs!***



## 2. The Use of Time

**Ephesians 5:16** *Redeeming the TIME because the days are evil. Therefore be ye not unwise but understanding what the will of the Lord is. (KJV)*

**Colossians 4:5** *Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the TIME. (KJV)*

### ■ All Have the Same Amount of Time

Here we are told to redeem the time i.e. buy back the time or to take every opportunity. Since we all have twenty four hours a day we are to take our time in hand and use it to the best advantage. When we say **buy back** we mean that we are not to allow time to slip away and be wasted. We should highly esteem each day we have.

### ■ The Time We Have

**James 4:14** *Whereas you know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? IT IS EVEN A VAPOUR, that appeareth for a little time and vanisheth away. (KJV)*

Seventy or eighty years is not a long time to live compared to eternity. Some people who live in this age, live as though this life lasts forever. Although our life is a vapour or a puff of smoke, this short time is of extreme importance and determines our eternal destiny.

## ■ Faithful to Your Calling

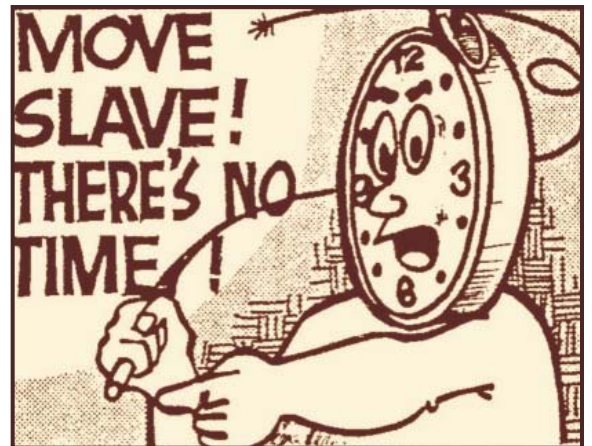
Every person will be rewarded according to his diligence and faithfulness to what God has called him. Therefore what we do with our time in this life is of utmost importance. Time is not the problem but **each** person must choose how to use it to find God's will, and then to do it.

If we are going to do anything for God let us do it with all our hearts

**1 Corinth. 3:13,14** *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. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. [KJV]*

Some people are so busy **doing nothing** that they have **no time for anything**.

The problem? Disorganization. They have no time to spend with the Lord and they have no time for fellowship with their companions or family. These people do not seem to have time for anything worthwhile. Time rules them instead of them ruling time.



So many people are so disorganized that they lose control of their time. There are many who have talents and gifts from the Lord, but because of lack of discipline they let them **slip**. Through laziness and fear of effort they keep their talents to themselves.

## 2.1 Misplaced Time

**Proverbs 6:6-11** *Go to the ant, you sluggard: consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food in harvest. How long will you lie there you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest and poverty will come to you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man.*

A sluggard is someone who does nothing worthwhile in the time that is available to him every day. He is one who is disorderly in living, an attitude which is anti-God and Satan's most effective thief. He shows an unwillingness to evaluate honestly, repent and change.

**Proverbs 13:4** *The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.*

There is no room for slackness and laziness in the Word of God. The **diligent** are those who make full use of their time and put **quality effort** into every day. They recognize the danger of ease and do not take the line of least resistance which requires nothing and gives nothing.

God made us to rule and have dominion over all the work of His hands – including the twenty four hours we have in the seven days of every week.

We have six days to work and one day to rest

## 3. Symptoms of Disorganization

1 Corinthians 9:27 *I discipline my body and make it my slave ...*

We must be **ruthless** in the diagnosis of our lives. Are we being as effective as God wants us to be? Let us not deceive ourselves – are we disorganized or not? Let us first have a look at some of the outward symptoms of a lifestyle of **disorganization**.

### 3.1 The Cluttered Desk

This may be a small thing, but it is the small foxes that spoil the vine. The Bible says that a tree is known by its fruit. Fruit is the outer effect of inner resources. Whether it is a cluttered desk, kitchen counter, work desk or basement workroom – how is the world where you live? Is it littered with papers, or memos that have been forgotten, tasks and things to do that never get attended to?

How is the path of your daily travels?

### 3.2 The Condition of Your Car

If it is dirty inside and outside, you have **symptoms** of disorganization.

### 3.3 The Lowering of Self-Esteem

When people begin to hate themselves, it is a sure sign of disorganization.

Disorganization goes against the conscience and robs the person of inner peace and contentment.

#### ■ Slight Fear of People

The feeling that people are watching and that they will **discover the sloth, lingers when** there is a **lack of self-discipline**.

### 3.4 'Forgettery' Works Overtime

When there is a series of forgotten appointments, telephone messages and deadlines which are not responded to, then you know it is time to **organise** and **begin redeeming the time**. You can be sure that you are a victim of time and pressure.

### 3.5 Unproductive Projects

When you tend to invest your time and energy into **unproductive tasks**, think again. It is so frustrating to look at the day that has just past and feel that you have **not achieved anything**. Normally when we are taken up with boring and mundane tasks, it is because the challenge of the real thing is **overwhelming** and we look to other things to distract us.

Avoiding one **responsibility** leads to another until there is a larger backlog which in turn creates pressure to avoid – and so begins a vicious circle.

### 3.6 Discontentment

Disorganized people are never satisfied with their work. Deep down they know they have produced second best. They go home at night pounding their steering wheels wishing they could have it over again.

If you know that you have been wholehearted then there will be contentment and satisfaction.

Whatever you put your hand to, do it with all your might!

### 3.7 Rare Intimacy with God

There might be the good intention and the longing to spend time in the Word and in prayer, fellowshiping with God. No one can tell them that they ought to because they know they should – **but they never get down to it**. They go to bed **unmotivated** and WEARY and they wake up **unmotivated** and **weary** and consequently have **no feeling** for spending time with God. Deep down you know that you need to organise your life. An organized life brings a rest and freedom from pressure.

### 3.8 Breakdown of Personal Relationships

When there is disorganization the **quality** of our **fellowship** with our companion and children becomes **shallow** and **meaningless**. Discontentment and frustration produce **irritability** and **resentment**. The family knows that there is **slackness** and possibly adds to the pressure of the whole cycle of disorganization.

### 3.9 General Self-Hate Campaign

Disorganization is like a **downward sucking whirlpool**. It is normally a **habit pattern** that has set in gradually and began with **relaxing effort** in some way until it has become a mountainous giant. We must break this downward spiral.

Get vision  
and direction!  
Speak to the  
mountain of  
disorganization!

## 4. Budgeting Time

*Proverbs 16:1,3 To man belong the plans of the heart ... commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.*

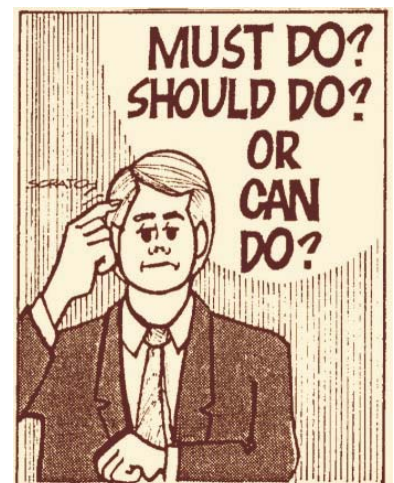
As we have seen, life is one long pressure. It demands our presence, our energy and **our time**. It seems to be difficult to get to everything in a day.

#### ■ What To Do?

What do we do with this downward spiral with its sense of failure and dissatisfaction of this complex world.

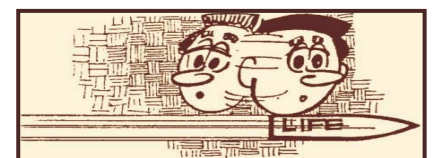
- ◆ Where are you going?
- ◆ Where have you been?

Maybe more tapes should be listened to, more books read, more prayer offered, more Bible read, but deep down we know that this is not the full answer.



#### ■ Where Is Life Going?

When we look back we see that life has flown past us in a flash. **There is a way to be more effective:**



*Ephesians 5:15,16 ... live life ... with a due sense of responsibility, not as men [and women] who do not know the meaning and purpose of life but as those who do. Make the best use of your time, despite all the difficulties of these days.*

God has made us caretakers of His creation and has commanded us to **continue the task**. We have been given **the responsibility** by the dominion and authority that God has given us. We have all the gifts that God intended us to have.

## ■ A Strategy Not a Formula

**What is our strategy for living?** The quality of our **living** is determined by **the quality of our goals**. If our goals are clearly defined then we are probably living well, but if they are poor and muddled, we are probably disorganized.

After we have clearly defined our goals we need to **determine priorities**. In other words we need to set our goals in **order of importance**. Then, how do you plan to get there? The next step is to get on with **living out** plans, priorities and goals.

Set your goals,  
establish  
priorities, plan  
to achieve  
your goals and  
measure your  
life against  
these goals

## ■ It Is A Process

Everyday brings new information and new lessons. We will be required to make new adjustments to our **goals, priorities, plans** and **living**. We have turned our **downward cycle into an upward spiral**.

Life is a process  
– we learn as  
we live

## 4.1 The Method of Budgeting

Sometimes there are so many goals or things to do in our lives that we give up just from the pure weight of responsibility. How do we determine the best goals?

### ■ When We Need to Budget

#### ◆ Too Many Goals

Make a list of things that must be done by you for today, this week, this month, this year or in your lifetime. Write down your leisure time things, your work and your social responsibilities.

#### ◆ The Changing World

This is the reason why we must budget our time. We might have to reshuffle and adjust, but one thing must be done – **determine** the important things and **commit** ourselves to them.

#### ◆ What to do next?

Budgeting is really answering the question **“WHEN?”**

When we have  
more goals than  
we can handle

### ■ Choose the Future

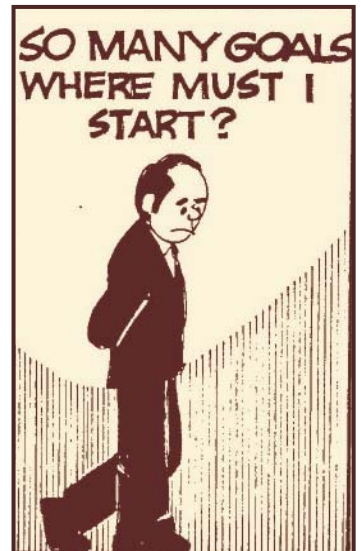
*Philippians 3:13* Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead. (NIV)

### ■ Priority Questions

- ◆ How urgent is it?
- ◆ How important is it?
- ◆ How often must it be done?
- ◆ Can someone else do it?
- ◆ Is it part of a larger task I must do?

These are essential questions that must be asked of your responsibilities and goals. But, what will happen if it is not done at all?

- ◆ Finally ask, “Is this the best way?”



What will  
happen if it is  
not done at all?

## ■ The ABC's

When we budget financially, we make a list of all our financial commitments beginning with the most important – tithes and offerings. We then move onto the **fixed payments** and finally end up with **fluctuating payments** and then can determine our **needs** and **wants**.

Similarly we ought to budget our time into **important commitments** such as time spent in **fellowship with God** and fellowship with our **companion** and **children**. Then we need to set **fixed commitments** of our time to things such as sleep, work, lunch, daily and weekly meetings and events etc. Finally we can look at fluctuating commitments. These are the A-B-C's of time budgeting.

- ◆ A – MUST DO or important
- ◆ B – SHOULD DO or fixed
- ◆ C – CAN DO or fluctuating



## 4.2 Make Decisions

*James 1:8* A double-minded man is unstable in all he does.

### ■ You Can Decide

We need to make decisions in the light of God's **Lordship** – commit your ways to the Lord, **make your plans** and God will direct your steps.

### ■ Be An Initiator

The best decision to make is to **take the lead** and make things happen instead of things making you happen.

### ■ Decisions Can Be Changed

Changes should not be made too often, and then **only to improve or add to previous decisions**.

### ■ Experience

If you make a mistake, learn by it, get up and go on.

Losing the battle is not losing the war

## 4.3 Commitment

"I'd like to help, Pastor, but that is not one of my priorities".

### ■ Priorities Involve Values

They will be determined by what motivates us and will differ from person to person.

### ■ Three Levels of Commitment

Although priorities change with values and motivation, there are basic principles and values every believer should have.

- ◆ **Commitment to the Godhead**  
Our fellowship with God should determine **our priorities** and **time budgeting**. Put God first and the rest will take care of itself.
- ◆ **Commitment to the Body**  
Fellowship with companion, children and fellow believers.

A messed up life is a symptom that God is not first

♦ **Commitment to the Work of Christ**

Commitment to the Body is **edification of the church** whereas the work of Christ is **evangelizing the lost**.

The key word is fellowship and love for one another

## 5.The Lord of Time

Jesus Christ the Lord is the express image of the Father and His exact representation. **Jesus was always in control of his time**, never ruffled or rushed even in seeming emergencies.

### 5.1 He Clearly Understood His Mission

Everything else was subject to that. The cry of a blind man, Zaccheus in the tree, a father's supplication for his dying daughter, were things that occurred on His way to His final destination.

Jesus knew which tasks he was called to

### 5.2 He Understood His Own Limits

Time must be budgeted for gathering inner strength and resolve to make up for one's weaknesses in the battle of life.

Jesus maximised his time with his Father

### 5.3 He Budgeted Time for the Twelve

**Mark 3:14** *He appointed twelve ... that they might be with Him*

**John 17:4** *I have brought You glory on earth by completing the work You gave Me to do.*

NOTES

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