

# Redeeming the Time (Part 2)

*Don't quit at 6*  
*Ephesians 5: 15 - 20*

**Icebreaker:**

If you had a time machine, would you go back in time or into the future?

**Aim of discussion:** Learn to redeem our time by trusting God, having the fear of the Lord, and obeying his commands.

**1. We redeem the TIME BY TRUSTING IN GOD and NOT in our own abilities.**

**1 Chronicles 16:11**

*Search for the Lord and for his strength; continually seek him.*

- Apostle Paul explains that we are naturally incapable of any good and are in need of spiritual rebirth (Eph 2:1–10).
- We don't redeem the time on our own, but by the power of the Holy Spirit poured out on the church (Eph 4:6–8).
- Redeeming the time requires being led by the Spirit, not working from our own strength or according to our own priorities.
- For example, walking around Jericho for 7 days and not saying a word seems like an utter waste of time, but God was preparing something.

**HOUSE OF OBED-EDOM:**

**2 Samuel 6:11**

*The Ark of the Lord remained in Obed-Edom's house for three months, and the Lord blessed Obed-Edom and his entire household.*

- Because God saw Obed-Edom's heart of worship, He blessed Obed-Edom's entire household.
- Prayer may seem like a waste of time, but when you pray, God can move ahead of you.
- It's better to spend time in the presence of God, because God can give favour and blessing just like that.

**Redeeming the time requires the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.**

- Spending time worshipping God: when the church was praying for the building at 23 Foster Street, Ps David called a night of prayer, worship & thanksgiving. As a result, God answered our prayer.
- Come to God with a thanksgiving heart, that will move Him rather than our endless requests.

**3. We Don't Redeem the Time while Living in Sin & fixating on Worldly goals - To redeem the time means we must understand the danger of sin and resist it.**

- Redeeming the time requires walking wisely in all areas of life, which means holy living according to our new nature, let the Spirit renew our thoughts and attitudes (Eph 4:22-24).
- This requires walking and living in WISDOM - the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

**We Don't Redeem the Time by Fixating on Worldly Goals**

- Living wisely in light of Christ's authority reminds us of our need to align our priorities with those of Scripture.

**Ecclesiastes 12:13**

*Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone's duty.*

- The most important thing is to fear God and keep his commandments (Eccl. 12:13).
- Don't focus on your problems. Give thanks to God, praise and worship the Lord, singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to him (Eph 5:18-20).

**Questions:**

1. In which areas do you need to trust God but not your own abilities right now? In what areas of your life have you struggled/are struggling to put your trust in God?
2. Share your experiences of how God answered your prayer miraculously in the past and examine how your prayer life is right now. Do you regularly spend personal time with God? How about corporate prayer in church? Share one thing that you can do right now to improve in this area.
3. How can we apply our Christian belief practically when we are working in a secular organization? Share some of the tactics we can use to help these people who are yet to believe in Jesus outside of the church.

**Things to try:**

- Apply H.E.R.O. mandate (hospitality, evangelism, relationship, oikos) in your workplace. Write down two names of colleagues or friends that you believe God has put in your heart and pray for them as a connect group regularly. Start to invite them out for a coffee or meal and share your belief. You are also encouraged to [click here](#) to submit the names of people you want to or are reaching out to so that we can pray together as a church.