

Redeeming the Time (Part 1)

Don't quit at 6

Ephesians 5: 15 - 20

ICEBREAKER: Discuss in your small groups the pressure on your time. What are the things that:

- 1) you would like to have more time for?
- 2) the things you would like to spend less time on?

Aim of Discussion: Learn how to redeem our time by seeking God's priority; get God's perspective and persist in God's promises.

Introduction:

- We must make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.
- Redeeming the time because the days are evil.
- Don't act thoughtlessly but understand what the LORD's will is.
- To be most effective doing the right things, we need to understand what it really means to redeem the time.

Let's consider four things redeeming the time does *not* mean, in order to bring clarity to what it *does* mean:

1. We don't redeem the time by neglecting Christ himself. We redeem the time by focusing on Christ himself.

- God called Abraham and gave him a PROMISE... Faith is initiated BY GOD'S CALL - remember we hear God's voice even before responding to the altar call... you and I designed to hear the voice of God.
- Jesus is the AUTHOR - INITIATOR, PERFECTOR & FINISHER of our faith...

- God CALLS & GIVES US PROMISES → So, we need to CHOOSE TO RESPOND in FAITH....
- We are choice rich, not time poor.
- Choice of faith means taking up our cross each day. It may be hard to believe when you are facing situations that don't line up with the promise. But remember, God often does something IN YOU before doing something FOR YOU.

PATTERN FOR OUR LIFE: (Pattern for the Church)

- 1. Comfort - reveals Christ**
- 2. Connection - reveals the Church**
- 3. Cause - reveals the Cross - do I have to serve in the church**
- 4. Commitment - community**
- 5. Crisis - develops your character**
- 6. Convictions - are my credentials**
- 7. Completion - Consistency will bring you to completion**

- People often come to church because they have found comfort in the gospel, and they come to seek for connection because people in the church are nice.
- But when comfort is not the same as before and connection is not like it used to be, people may move away from the church or move from church to church. Therefore, people must grow to the next level and learn to embrace the cause of Jesus.
- We must make a choice and commitment to the cause of Jesus. We must walk with Jesus personally then we can walk and serve the church purposefully.
- We will encounter crisis as we serve the cause of Jesus. Challenges and crisis will develop our character.

- Convictions will be our credentials as we hold onto to the conviction.
- Completion – we want to finish the race, to do that, consistency is the key.

QUESTION:

1. What does the cross mean to you?
2. What are the things that you feel make life worth living – what would you least want to lose?
3. How can you redeem the time by focusing on Jesus more? What are some of the things you would like to live out in the next two weeks?

Things you can do:

- How much time do you spend watching TV or looking at the Internet each week? How much time do you spend in God's word each week? Does this ratio show you what you are most interested in learning about? Use some of your TV or Internet time today to read the Bible. Write down the benefits you felt from doing this.
- Joy is directly linked to accomplishment. When we accomplish what we set out to do, we experience deep satisfaction. When we live the life we were created to live, we will experience joy! If you lack joy, you usually lack purpose. But purpose looks different in the Kingdom of Heaven. It's not what we have, who we know, or who knows us, but rather it is an ability to see our life from heaven's perspective and agree (or align ourselves) with that perspective. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you the purpose for your life, write down some of your thoughts and discuss with a leader that is close to you.