

## **The Godly Man as Christ's Representative** *Goals, Priorities and the Use of Time*

How often have you given mental assent to the little slogan that reads: "The hurrier I go, the behinder I get!"? How many times have we said (or at least thought) "Oh, if I only had more time!" But the problem is not time, but rather ourselves! We so often waste time, live disorganized lives and major on the minors - and thus we minor on the majors.

In order to use time wisely we need to back up and establish goals and priorities. e.g.

1. We need to establish an overall goal in life. (Where am I heading in life?) as well as personal goals, goals for our families, etc.
2. Next, set our priorities according to what will best help us reach our goals.
3. Then use our time in keeping with our priorities to accomplish our goals.

*Only one life  
'Twill soon be past.  
Only what's done  
For Christ will last.*

The subject of this lesson is an area in which we all have needs. Teacher, pray about your own personal need as well as asking God to meet specific needs in the lives of your class members.

### **A. Object Of The Lesson**

1. To help each one see God's perspective on time and know how to plan and use time more efficiently.
2. To help each one become a better steward of his life by helping him set measurable and attainable goals.

### **B. Discussion Questions**

1. What does the word "priority" mean? (indicates that some things come "prior or before" some other things - not instead of. Having priorities enables you to walk purposefully through life with some guidelines for making decisions and using your time to reach your goals.)
2. What does God's Word say in I Corinthians 6:19,20 is the reason we need to organize "our" time?
3. Look at Mark 4:19. What things must we avoid to keep confusion and wrong planning out of our priorities? When can we be sure our use of time is not glorifying God? (When it crowds out the Word).
4. What are some practical ways to get the most out of little moments of time? e.g. while waiting for a bus or a person, waiting in line, etc. (Josh. 1:8,9; Psalm

119:97-99. Learn to do two things at once. For instance, drive or shine shoes and listen to an audio. Review verses while walking or waiting, etc.)

It is very easy to waste much time with a minute or two here, five minutes there, etc. We need to stop the “leakage” of minutes.

5. Do you feel in order to do God's will in one area you will have to neglect His will in another area? (No God's will is not conflicting. God's will done in God's way will not lack God's time.)

6. Give an example of planning ahead, and the results. Give an example of not planning ahead and the results.

7. Why do you feel people don't get the facts? (They don't want to change their mind; it takes time and hard work)

8. What are some of the reasons for indecisiveness? (Immaturity - Proverbs 17:24 LB, fear of consequences, lack of facts, fear of others, lack of convictions, lack of faith, lack of clear-cut goals and objectives).

9. What are some results of indecisiveness? (Proverbs 12:25 Anxiousness, ineffectiveness, frustration, lack of accomplishment (Wishful thinking equals zero accomplishment and produces apathy on the part of those you are responsible to lead), loss of opportunity leading to guilt - which produces poor judgment, which causes paralysis Indecisiveness effects every area of a person's life. James 1: 8)

10. What are some cures for indecisiveness?

a. Proverbs 8:5 (LB)

b. Ask for help from God and others

c. Ask questions:

1) Does God want me to know His will?

2) Do I know it? Then act in faith.

3) Am I trying to find His will? If not, I am kidding myself.

d. Not to act after having found out His will is rebellion and disobedience.

e. Trust God more.

f. Get right with God. Proverbs 28:18, (LB)

g. Do something.

h. Meditate on the Word. Romans 12:2

i. Pray for wisdom. James 1:5 (Perspective) Colossians 1:9 (Phillips)

11. What does it mean in practical ways to live with a margin? (Be realistic, allow for the unexpected. If you are ready to go at 6:00 p.m., plan to be ready at 5:45 p.m. This gives you a margin for the unexpected. If you have an appointment at 9:30 plan to be there 10 minutes early. That takes the pressure off and may give you a restful 10 minutes to collect your thoughts, review scripture, pray or just relax.)

12. How do we separate the important from the urgent? (The urgent can be the

opening of the mail, seeing a treasured T.V. program, stopping to do a task you've been putting off for a month, etc. These all can be very urgent, but may not be the most important use of your time at that moment. Deciding on what you have to do, placing these things in their order or importance, and scheduling your time will help you insulate yourself from those nagging interruptions. If you do not plan and control your time, someone or something else will. One very practical thing you need to guard against in this area is long visits via the telephone.)

13. How does writing things down help our time use? (It allows us to visualize the tasks before us and put them in order of their priority.)

14. Share some practical tips you use on saving time, using time efficiently, etc.

### **C. Suggestions For Conclusion**

1. Have them look over the list of nine things on page 41 and state which two are their greatest needs. Then ask them to write out some positive step they will take this week to put these two principles into effect in their lives.

2. Ask them to look at Luke 9:57-62 and answer the following questions:

a. What would you say were the predetermined priorities of these three men?

b. How did their priorities determine their answers to Jesus' call?

c. How do your personal priorities determine your answer to your Master's request?

d. Do you also have a "not now, Jesus, because ..." answer? What will you do to alter this situation?

3. Perhaps Teacher you would like to use the following poem:

### **One Day At A Time**

One day at a time, with its failures and fears,  
With its hurts and mistakes, with its weakness and tears,  
With its portion of pain and its burden of care;  
One day at a time we must meet and must bear.

One day at a time to be patient and strong,  
To be calm under trial and sweet under wrong,  
Then its toiling shall pass and its sorrow shall cease;  
It shall darken and die, and the night shall bring peace.

One day at a time - but the day is so long,  
And the heart is not brave and the soul is not strong.  
O Thou pitiful Christ, be Thou near all the way;  
Give courage and patience and strength for the day.

Swift cometh His answer, so clear and so sweet;  
“Yea, I will be with thee, thy troubles to meet;  
I will not forget thee, nor fail thee, nor grieve;  
I will not forsake thee; I never will leave.”

Not yesterday's load we are called on to bear,  
Nor the morrow's uncertain and shadowy care;  
Why should we look forward or back with dismay?  
Our needs, as our mercies, are but for the day.

One day at a time, and the day is His day;  
He hath numbered its hours, though they haste or delay.  
His grace is sufficient; we walk not alone;  
As the day, so the strength that He giveth His own.

*Annie Johnson Flint*

#### **D. Additional Scriptures**

Matthew 6:33; Ephesians 5:15-17 (Phillips); I Timothy 4:7,8; I Thessalonians 4:11; II Timothy 2:2; Titus 3:14; Proverbs 27:1; Ecclesiastes 3:22; I Chronicles 29:15; Psalm 39:5; Isaiah 38:12 (LB)

#### **E. Possible Projects**

1. Begin keeping a pocket diary of appointments, due dates, plans for your week, etc.
2. Keep a notebook with you constantly for one week to record the ways you waste time and how much time you waste. Then work to stop these “time leakages”.
3. Make a simple block outline of each day this week. Then plan your week “schedule”. Write in what is already on your regular schedule (e.g. Quiet Time, work, lunch, special appointments (dentist, date with wife, children ball game, car repair, etc) preparing Bible study, Sunday School lesson, etc.) Make a list of things to be done. Arrange them in order of priority. Now fill in on the time squares that are left according to priority.

#### **F. Extra Helps**

Managing Your Time by Engstrom  
A Spiritual Clinic by Sanders, Moody Press  
Health Shall Spring Forth, Moody Press  
The Inner Chamber by Andrew Murray, Zondervan  
All the Time You Need, Prentice Hall  
Ministry of Intercession by Andrew Murray  
Audio 591, 492, 503 - Management of Time  
Audio 1024 - Use of Time  
Audio BSU 90 - Priorities and the Use of Time