
“Time and Priorities”

As most of us can testify, we live in a world where it appears that we never have enough time. Everything seems to be a rush and we often push aside the time we might spend with God, our spouse, or perhaps our children. We figure that we always have tomorrow and the business-related matters need attention today. In this pattern of thought, tomorrow seemingly never comes and we find ourselves in the vicious cycle of putting the temporal concerns (business and material matters) always ahead of the eternal concerns (our relationship with God). Our priorities should be very clear and boilerplate: God *first and above all else*, then family, then career / business or whatever you see fit. Unfortunately, for many, their priorities are upside down, whereas, God and family do not even come close to the top of their list. It is always something else or someone else that takes the primary place of time, energy, and thought over God.

Jesus had a problem with this type of mindset. In fact He made it very clear when He said... “He who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy...”(Matt 10:37-38). The thought of not being worthy of Jesus is a thought we should never be able to live with. If we do not have Christ, then we do not have anything. We have so much on our plate, so many things on our minds that we consider so important and yet those things have no importance at all to our children who excitedly wait all day to tell us of their latest accomplishment or perhaps, their latest problem. Sadly, it is in those moments when they require our individual attention that our minds are miles away. The time and attention that we give them will help shape their lives in a positive manner, not to mention, that it will be what they remember as they grow older and reflect on us as parents. We should desire to be remembered by our children as parents who always made time for them and that their lives were far more important and worthy of our time than our daily activities or business ventures.

In recent times, I can recall being busier in my company than I ever could have imagined with absolutely very little time for anything. I began to recognize the pattern that I was falling into. As a result, I committed to my priorities and decided to start serving God by teaching and preaching at my church on a regular basis, attending Bible school, and helping the church with commitment to the committees. With a full business agenda for the entire year of 2007, I clearly had no time for one of these tasks, let alone all four. Yet, I made the commitment that even if the other things suffered and I missed out on extraordinary financial gains, I would keep my priorities consistent. There would be no compromising: God would be first, my family second, and everything else third. Amazingly, I accomplished more in that year than in the previous five years when I did not spend the time with God that I should have. You see, you can never out give God whether it is your time, talents, or money. Whatever we give God, unconditionally, He returns to us tenfold. The year 2007 was one of my best years and, somehow I had plenty of time for God, my family, business and leisure time to spare.

I do not understand it but we serve a supernatural God who is all-powerful and all-knowing. Never forget to keep your priorities in their proper order and all other things will fall into place. Jesus exhorts us to “seek first His Kingdom and his righteousness”...(Matt 6:25) Take the time to pray before you leave home and spend time with your Heavenly Father daily. You will be amazed at how He does for you what you could never do for yourself. Somehow, God will give you all the time you need just when you were convinced that you did not have time for anything else.

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