20,000 DAYS AND COUNTING

ROBERT D. SMITH

SERMON SERIES

SERMON 1

A Matter Of Time

PSALM 90:12

by Jan & Rick Loy

SharingEncouragement.com
A Matter Of Time

PSALM 90:12

“So teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom.”

“To get all there is out of living, we must employ our time wisely, never being in too much of a hurry to stop and sip life, but never losing our sense of the enormous value of a minute.”

-Robert Updegraff

Has anyone ever fully known the significance of one moment of time? Often our language and our behavior suggest we know little of the potential and actual value of a moment, an hour, or a day. We use phrases such as “spend time,” “take time,” “invest time,” “save time,” “pass time,” “let time get away,” “manage time,” and much more, all revealing a pressing need to come to grips with the eternal value of each moment and day. The prayer of Moses in the verses of Psalm 90 speaks to the issue, to the Lord of the issue, and to the sober necessity of learning the Lord’s perspective on this matter of time.

I. THE REQUEST: “…teach us to number our days…”

The only accurate assessment of time and its value can come from the One who created time; His counsel is essential.

A. WE NEED GOD’S WISDOM REGARDING TIME; IT IS READILY AVAILABLE.

– James 1:5, Proverbs 8

1. OUR HEARTS ARE DECEITFUL; HE BRINGS TRUTH. – Jeremiah 17:9
2. OUR LIVES ARE COMPLICATED; HE BRINGS CALM. – Matthew 13:22
3. Our understanding is distorted; he brings clarity. – Matthew 15:15-16

   1. We have been given gifts and responsibilities in the kingdom. – I Corinthians 12:4-7
   2. We have been entrusted with stewardship over things dear to the heart of God. – I Peter 2:4-9
   3. We are accountable to God for our stewardship of our lives, gifts, and responsibilities. – Matthew 25:14-15

C. WE NEED THE CLARITY AND FOCUS THAT ONLY GOD CAN GIVE IN THESE MATTERS. – John 6:67-68
   1. Our nature and our culture work against biblical thinking; we need illumination.
   2. Our enemy deceives and distorts truth; we need to hear from and be taught by God.

   “Every moment is a golden one for him who has the vision to recognize it as such.”

   – Henry Miller
II. THE REALITY: ...“that we may present to You a heart of wisdom.”

Numbering our days is not about arithmetic; it is about stewardship. Wisdom is demonstrated in wise and enthusiastic stewardship.

A. GOD’S WISDOM TEACHES US THAT LIFE IS VERY BRIEF IN COMPARISON TO ETERNITY. –James 4:14

1. WE CANNOT PREDICT NOR PREsume THE NUMBER OF OUR DAYS.
2. WE CAN CONSECRATE EACH DAY TO HIM WITH GRATITUDE AND JOY.

B. WISDOM GIVES CERTAINTY OF ONLY ONE DAY AND TIME: TODAY, AND NOW!

“Yesterday’s gone, and tomorrow may never come, but we have this moment today.”

– Bill and Gloria Gaither

1. TODAY IS A GIFT GIVEN TO US BY GOD; LITERALLY, NOT METAPHORICALLY. IT IS “REAL-TIME” THAT MATTERS MORE THAN WE CAN KNOW.
   – Psalm 118:24
2. GOD DESERVES—AND EXPECTS—OUR GRATITUDE TO BE DEMONSTRATED BY OUR WHOLEHEARTED ENGAGEMENT IN THE OPPORTUNITIES HE HAS GIVEN.
   – Ecclesiastes 9:10; Colossians 3:23
3. THE POET CRYSTALLIZES THE THOUGHT:

“This is the beginning of a new day. God has given me this day to use as I will. I can waste it or use it for good. What I do today is important, because I am exchanging a day of my life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever, leaving in its place something that I have traded for it. I want it to be gain, not loss; good not evil; success not failure; in order that I shall not regret the price I paid for it.”

–Author Unknown
C. WISDOM TURNS THE IMPLICIT INTO THE EXPLICIT—TIME AND LIFE ARE URGENT!

1. GOD’S WORD EMPHASIZES “TODAY” AS THE FOCAL POINT FOR OUR LIVES.
   – Exodus, 32:29; Deuteronomy 4:4, 39; Joshua 24:15; I Kings 18:36; Psalm 95:7;

2. REALITY REVEALS THAT WE CANNOT LIVE IN THE PAST, NOR CAN WE LIVE IN
   THE FUTURE; WE CAN ONLY LIVE TODAY.
   – Luke 12:20

3. WHATEVER WE ARE GOING TO DO, WE MUST DO IT NOW.
   – John 9:4; Galatians 6:10

III. THE RESULTS: LIVES LIVED WELL IN ENERGIZED, CREATIVE, AND
      MEANINGFUL SERVICE TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND TO PEOPLE.

Seeking and receiving God’s wisdom regarding time results in a fresh energy and respect for God
and the life He has given today. The wise person in turn takes what God has given and
maximizes it daily as an act of stewardship and offering back to God.

A. MOSES’ PRAYER WAS TO “present to You a heart of wisdom.” BIBLICAL WISDOM IS NOT
   SIMPLY THEORETICAL OR INTELLECTUAL; IT IS BEHAVIORAL, DEMONSTRABLE, AND

B. TODAY IS ALL WE HAVE; USE IT WISELY!

   “Every day is a gift you’ve been given;
   make the most of the time every minute you’re living.”
   -Chris Rice