

Time and Chance

Ecclesiastes 9:11-12, Ecclesiastes 3:1, Psalm 90:12, Ephesians 5:16, 2 Corinthians 6:2

When we begin to talk about stewardship, most of us automatically think of finance—using the money we have in a way that pleases and glorifies God. Though making such a connection makes sense, it's not the only association to be made in the realm of stewardship. The same principles of stewardship apply to two other major aspects of life: time and opportunity.

In Ecclesiastes, King Solomon concludes that time and chance happen to everyone. When we view the pair as gifts from God that need to be managed properly, we can start living truly successful lives.

Time and chance happen to everyone; however, they don't happen to everyone in the exact same way. The time and opportunities God gives me won't look like the time and opportunities God gives you. Likewise, when you compare your gifts to someone else's, you're only distracting yourself from stewarding your gifts in a way that glorifies God.

If you're too busy wishing you had the opportunity someone else has, you won't be able to fulfil the purpose God has for you during this time. And God usually likes to see that he can trust you with smaller opportunities before he gives you bigger ones.

Besides not giving into the temptation comparison offers, we're also responsible for managing our time in a God-pleasing manner. If we steward our time properly, we maximize the potential of our opportunities. A wise steward can turn time into his friend, making it work for him.

Ultimately, as Christians, we know that every time has a purpose and every purpose has a time. No matter how well we steward our gifts of time and opportunity, a point comes when we have to trust God that he knows what he's doing, and that he works all things together for the good of those who love him. When we feel overlooked at work or pressured by the ticking of the clock, we can find peace in a God who gives gifts in his perfect timing.

Church Highlights

- Ps Bobbie's Book "The Sisterhood"
- Upcoming 30th Hillsong Conference
- Global Colour Your World Conferences

Pray Together

- Salvations - that people come to know Jesus.
- For Ps Brian and the Team on the "Outcry" Worship tour of USA
- For Ps Bobbie and the global Colour conferences

Nation Builders

We can make a difference as a connect group by praying for the Nation Builders causes we support and by giving together. Our offering extends the reach of our church locally to reach and influence the world for Jesus.

Time and Chance

Connection and Action

Questions to promote conversation and connection

Time and Chance

- Q** What comes to your mind when you think of the words time and chance?
- Q** Would you say that you use your time wisely? Explain.
- Q** What practical steps can you put in place to make sure you get the most out of your time?
- Q** What opportunities, big or small, have you got in your hands right now?
- Q** How do you go with comparing yourselves to others when it comes to time and opportunity?
- Q** What do you think of Ps Brian's phrase 'Each time has a purpose and each purpose has a time'?
- Q** What is the purpose for this time in your life?
- Q** What dreams and purposes are you holding onto that have not come to pass yet? And which one of these may not actually be for this time in your life?

Bible and Belief

Questions to help believers develop a biblical world view

Read Ecclesiastes 9:11

- Q** What are your thoughts on this passage?
- Q** What do you think the author is trying to say? What frame of mind is he in?
- Q** What message can or should we draw from this passage for our lives?

Read Matthew 25:14-30

- Q** In the above parable, each servant is given a different amount of talents. Why is this?
- Q** How does this help us practically today when it comes to comparing ourselves with others?
- Q** Taking into account the time and talents that each man was given, would you say they each had equal opportunity? Discuss further.
- Q** What is the outcomes of good and bad stewardship, with regards to that which God has given us?

Growing Leadership

Questions to help people grow as leaders

Leadership Timing and Opportunity

- Q** We all have 24hrs in a day. How well are you using them to grow your leadership?
- Q** What changes could you make in your time management that would make the biggest impact for you and those you lead right now?
- Q** What opportunities have you got in your hands? How are you intentionally stewarding them?
- Q** How do you help people identify what opportunities they should or should not be pursuing at the moment?
- Q** What do you think of this statement, "Good timing is about attaching the right purpose to every given moment of time! Bad timing is when you keep on ignoring the right purpose for this time..."?

Pastoral Care

- We have a pastoral care team at church to walk alongside people through life's challenges
- With their permission, should anyone in your connect group experience sickness, death of a loved one, marriage challenges, or surgeries, please contact our church office: Sydney 02 8853 5353, Melbourne 03 9720 2099, Brisbane 07 3422 8500, Newcastle 02 4927 1888, Darwin 08 8932 3280