



“I Don't Have Enough Time”

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- Parkinson's Principle: “Work expands to fill all the available time.”
- It is not a matter of too few hours; it is a matter of too little wisdom.
- “Most of us spend too much time on what is urgent and not enough time on what is important.” (*Stephen Covey*)
- “There is not enough time to do all of the nothing we want to do.” (*Bill Watterson*)
- “Don't say you don't have enough time. You have exactly the same number of hours per day that were given to Helen Keller, Louis Pasteur, Michelangelo, Mother Teresa, Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson, and Albert Einstein.” (*H. Jackson Brown, Jr.*)

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- Psalm 90:12 - “So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.”
- Ecc. 8:5-6 - “...And a wise man's heart discerns both time and judgment, 6 Because for every matter there is a time and judgment...”
- Eph. 5:16 - “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”

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- Col. 4:5 - “Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.”
- James 4:13-15 - “Come now, you who say, Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit; 14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. 15 Instead you ought to say, If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.”

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- We need to learn to discern between the urgent and the important.
- “Let me take some pressure off. Your problem is not discipline. Your problem is not organization. Your problem is not that you have yet to stumble upon the perfect schedule. And your problem is not that the folks at home demand too much of your time. The problem is this: there’s not enough time to get everything done that you’re convinced—or others have convinced you—needs to get done.” *(Andy Stanley)*

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- Four reasons why people are very busy, but going nowhere in doing God’s will or growing in faith:
 - People often stay busy because of their egos.
 - People often stay busy as a cover up for laziness.
 - People often stay busy because of greed.
 - People often stay busy because they are more concerned about pleasing men rather than God.

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- Acts 6:1-4, 7 - “Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. 2 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. 3 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; 4 but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word... 7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.”

Accept Priorities

- We have lost sight of what is important.
- Jesus had enough time to do everything He was sent to do in this world because He started with God's purposes before His own wants and needs.
 - John 17:4 - "I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do."
 - John 6:38 - "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."
 - John 8:28-29 - "Then Jesus said to them, When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. 29 And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."

Accept Priorities

- He stayed busy with God's will, even though others questioned His priorities
 - Mark 1:32-34 - "At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. 33 And the whole city was gathered together at the door. 34 Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons"
 - Mark 3:20-21 - "Then the multitude came together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. 21 But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, He is out of His mind."

Accept Priorities

- “Here in this Man is adequate purpose, inward rest that gives an air of leisure to His crowded life. Above all there is in this Man a secret and a power of dealing with the waste-products of life, the waste of pain, disappointment, enmity, death, making a short life of about thirty years, abruptly cut off, to be a 'finished' life. We cannot admire the poise and beauty of this human life, and then ignore the things that made it.” (A. E. Whiteham, *The Discipline and Culture of the Spiritual Life*)

Accept Instructions

- We often allow too many others to tell us what we need to do, instead of accepting the single authority of direction in our lives.
- Jesus took His instructions from God
 - Mark 1:35 - “Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.”

Accept Instructions

- He put the demands and expectations of others second
 - Mark 1:36-38 - “And Simon and those who were with Him searched for Him. 37 When they found Him, they said to Him, Everyone is looking for You. 38 But He said to them, Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth.”

Accept Instructions

- Even when others expressed great urgency
 - John 11:3-6 - “Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick. 4 When Jesus heard that, He said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it. 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was.”

Accept Instructions

- Even though it may have caused Him pain
 - Isa. 53:3 - “He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.”

Accept Responsibilities

- We allow ourselves to become overwhelmed by the pressure of so many demands from so many sources that we begin to feel helpless and out of control of our own time.
- In fact, we have all of power and control of decision making in the use of our time. Accept responsibility and choose to act.

Accept Responsibilities

- Learn what we have been doing with our time
 - Ex. 18:17-21 - “So Moses' father-in-law said to him, The thing that you do is not good. 18 Both you and these people who are with you will surely wear yourselves out. For this thing is too much for you; you are not able to perform it by yourself. 19 Listen now to my voice; I will give you counsel, and God will be with you: Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God. 20 And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do. 21 Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.”

Accept Responsibilities

- Learn what God wants us to do
 - Prov. 16:9 - “A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.”
 - Matt. 6:33 - “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

Accept Responsibilities

- Create a budget for our time
 - Prov. 21:5 - “The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, But those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.”
- Implement the budget in real time
 - Prov. 14:23 - “In all labor there is profit, But idle chatter leads only to poverty.”

Accept Responsibilities

- Evaluate our experiences for improvements
 - Gal. 6:4 - “But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.”
- Stay in control of the time budget
 - 1Cor. 15:58 - “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”