

James: Faith That Works: Wisdom & Time

Day 1

Use it

How terrible to get to the end of your life with regrets. In this article you will read about a famous celebrity that had everything but expressed regret on his deathbed. Let's make we don't make the same mistake:

<https://hope1032.com.au/devotions/the-blessing-of-time/>

Verses: James 4:13-15, Psalm 90:12, Ephesians 5:16

Prayer Topics: Intentions, Activity, Productivity

Day 2

Urgency

No matter what season you are at in life, there is an urgency to your use of time that you must never forget about. When you are young and in school, you feel the urgency because you have assignments due and there is no choice but to be aware of the passage of time and to act with urgency. When you get a little older, your kids create a sense of urgency as you watch them grow and change, and the passage of time is right before your eyes. As you get a little older and the kids leave the house, that sense of urgency can wane, especially as you approach retirement. This loss of urgency is an illusion, as this devotional will explain:

<https://www.guidelines.org/sermons/why-is-time-so-important/>

Verses: Romans 13:11-13, John 9:4, Matthew 24:42-44

Prayer Topics: Value, Determination, Efficiency

Day 3

Revelation

Because time is the ultimate commodity, the one that everyone gets the same amount of each day, the one that can never be recovered once lost, the manner of its use becomes a revelation. What does it reveal? Check out this devotional to find out:

<https://www.praise.com/devotional/making-the-most-of-our-time-2>

Verses: Ephesians 5, Matthew 6:8, John 16:7

Prayer Topics: Surrender, Submission, Deliberate

Day 4

Practical

What are the practical ways to start making the most of our time? Check out this devotional to find out:

<https://christianminimalism.com/2019/04/29/the-gift-of-time/>

Verses: Psalm 39:4-5, Ephesians 5:15-17, Psalm 103:15-18

Prayer Topics: Goals, Meaning, Purpose

Day 5

Thanks to Sylvester Warsaw, Jr for our devotional today

Man has always been challenged since he decided to rebel against to live a life of reverence, a life of obedience to God. We have this account in Genesis 4 where Cain after killing his brother Abel went from the presence of the Lord built a city and named the city Enoch after his son. Cain chose to live in rebellion against God because he chose not to repent, therefore, the city he built God wasn't the foundation. Cities that man build are designed to glorify them by leaving a monument for a legacy. Because cities are designed to glorify its builder that translates into self worship, idol worship which can lead to men bowing down and worshiping the builder. People become expendable and lose their value when men erroneously elevate themselves above their fellow brothers and sisters. When people lose their reverence of God or have no reverence for God they become an enemy of God. Just like in Genesis 4:10 where God tells Cain these words, "The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground," likewise in this passage of James 5 verse 4 we are told this, "Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth." When men create an environment with an atmosphere that's not built on God but on self it becomes a direct assault against God the One who created the heavens, earth and man. It's an assault on His nature, His holiness, His sovereignty.

Because Israel was/is a nation created by God as His own for His good pleasure based on the promise He made to Abram, James is holding those in position of power of authority accountable reminding them who they were as a

people created by God, therefore, as a people they were to love God with all their heart, mind, soul and strength and their neighbor as themselves. When people become expendable at our expense that creates a problem with God. I wonder if James was looking back in Israel's history remembering the atrocities Israel committed against God for example as recorded in Ezekiel 16: 48-51, "As I live, says the Lord GOD, neither your sister Sodom nor her daughters have done as you and your daughters have done. Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw fit. Samaria did not commit half of your sins; but you have multiplied your abominations more than they, and have justified your sisters by all the abominations which you have done." Based on Ezekiel's understanding of the sins of Sodom the sins of Sodom were toxic selfishness and extreme devotion to property rights. I also wonder if the Holy Spirit led James to writing of Nehemiah. Nehemiah 5:14-19 talks about his reverence for God and his absolute dependence on God that's rooted in his love and reverence for God; he was unselfish and available to be effectively used by God. Physical manifestations are symptoms of what's going on or not going on internally. It's the Spirit of God that reveals what's going on internally in the heart of man. God uses His people to sound

the alarm to warn our brothers and sisters there are consequences to our actions that are far more reaching than we think.