

"Redeeming the Time"

John 9:1-4

Introduction: It was my intention today to take us back into our study of Revelation 19 and to look at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. But God redirected my mind to bring to you a challenge for the upcoming New Year.

Now you may have made New Year's resolutions and you are getting ready to step into them on Tuesday. I found a very popular list for resolutions.

1. Get in shape.
2. Start eating healthier food, and less food overall.
3. Stop procrastinating.
4. Improve your concentration and mental skills.
5. Meet new people.
6. Become more active.
7. Become more confident and take some chances.
8. Earn more money.
9. Become more polite.
10. Reduce stress.
11. Learn to be happier with your life.
12. Get more quality sleep.

I find it very interesting that people do not seem to be concerned with making better use of their time. Let me show you how the average family spends their time for the year.

8760 - Hours in a year.

2920 - Hours you sleep in the year.

2,080 - Hours worked in a year @ 40 hours a week.

1,460 - Hours spent on the phone.

415 - Hours spent eating.

1,508 - Hours spent watching TV.

17 - Hours left.

Today I want to challenge you to think about your time and think about how you manage your time in 2019. Listen to the words of **Jonathan Edwards** concerning our time.

"Time is very precious, because when it is past, it cannot be recovered. There are many things which men possess, which if they part with, they can obtain them again. If a man has parted with something which he had, not knowing the worth of it, or the need he should have of it; he often can regain it, at least with pains and cost. If a man have been overseen in a bargain, and have bartered away or sold something, and afterwards repents of it, he may often obtain a release, and recover what he had parted with. — But it is not so with respect to time. When once that is gone, it is gone forever; no pains, no cost will recover it. Though we repent ever so much that we let it pass, and did not improve it while we had it, it will be to no purpose. Every part of it is successively offered to us, that we may choose whether we will make it our own, or not. But there is no delay. It will not wait upon us to see whether or not we will comply with the offer."

Today we are going to look at John 9:1-4 and we are going to focus upon verse 4.

Notice John 9:1-4

When I read these verses, I am made aware that Jesus' disciples were no different than we are. They were concerned about things which really did not matter. What matter was this man that was blind was before Jesus Christ to be ministered to. He was in the path of Jesus Christ so that Jesus would be glorified.

Application:

Let us learn from this that there are people whom God places along our path and they are there so that we can minister to them and Christ can be glorified in the way in which we reach out to them. Let us be very careful about spending valuable time trying to discern who did what.

Galatians 6:9-10

⁹ *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*

¹⁰ *As we have therefore opportunity, **let us do good unto all men**, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*

Now let us look closely at verse 4 to see several points.

Notice John 4:9

- I. **The assignment of work.**

Jesus stated to His disciples that He **MUST** work the works of the Father. Jesus had been assigned work to do from the Father.

John 4:34

³⁴ *Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.*

Now let me show you what the work was that Jesus was sent to do.

John 17:4

⁴ *I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.*

Jesus was assigned a work that was to glorify the Father while He was here. To **GLORIFY** the Father was to manifest the Father and that is exactly what Jesus did.

Hebrews 1:3

³ *Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:*

Application:

From the time that man was created God assigned to him a work.

Genesis 2:15

¹⁵ *And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.*

We too have been assigned work to do as we live our lives on this earth.

Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸ *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

⁹ *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

¹⁰ *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

Now the question is, **"WHAT IS MY ASSIGNED WORK HERE ON EARTH?"**

As believers we all have different assignments but our assignment in general is the same and that is to bring glory to God as we make Jesus Christ known to the world around us.

Philippians 1:20-21

²⁰ *According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.*

²¹ *For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*

How do I magnify Jesus Christ in my life? I do it by doing what He would do if He were here and that is He would take time to minister to the needs of others.

We who are believers are the body of Jesus Christ and so we must be sure we have time to minister to the needs of others just as Jesus would do and as He did.

We are not to be spectators. We are not to be world travelers. We are not here to just glide through life by taking the path of least resistance. We are here to serve others and to make sacrifices to do so.

II. **The allotment of time.**

Notice John 9:4 again.

Jesus knew He had a limited amount of time and we can see that in Words recorded about His life.

John 2:4

⁴ *Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.*

John 7:6

⁶ *Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is always ready.*

John 8:20

²⁰ *These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come.*

John 12:23

²³ *And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.*

John 17:1

These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come;

Jesus could not waste time for He knew that His time was limited. He could not be a sluggard.

Application:

We too have a limited amount of time to serve the Lord. Therefore we must use our time wisely for we do not know when our time will end.

Psalm 90:9-12

⁹ *For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told.*

¹⁰ *The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.*

¹¹ *Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath.*

¹² *So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.*

The context of which these words were spoken are so important. Israel was in the 40 years of wondering in the wilderness and the numbered men were dying on a daily basis. They were all reminded of the frailty of life and so they knew that needed to see the value in each day because their days were limited.

Job 14:1-5,

III. **The approach of death.**

Notice John 9:4

The day here refers to life and the night refers to death. Jesus knew that His death was fast approaching. In the text here, He only had a few weeks until the cross.

Application:

Our time is limited also because death is fast approaching.

Hebrews 9:27

²⁷ *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

We have an appointment that has been set for us by God and on that very day we will die no matter where we are or what we are doing.

Job 14:1-5

Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble.

² *He cometh forth like a flower, **and is cut down**: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.*

³ *And doth thou open thine eyes upon such an one, and bringest me into judgment with thee?*

⁴ *Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one.*

⁵ *Seeing **his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass:***

I am reminded of the words of James.

James 4:13-14

¹³ *Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:*

¹⁴ *Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. **For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.***

When our lives are over our opportunity to serve the Lord in this life is gone.

Now let me remind you that we as believers will be held accountable for how we used our time and opportunities.

Let me show you the feeding of the 5000.

John 6:10-12

¹⁰ *And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.*

¹¹ *And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.*

¹² *When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, **Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.***

The disciples were not to waste the fragments. This could be fragments of time and opportunities. Our Lord desires that we make uses of every minute and every opportunity.

Matthew 25:14-19

¹⁴ For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

¹⁵ And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

¹⁶ Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

¹⁷ And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

¹⁸ But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

¹⁹ After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

1 Corinthians 3:13-15

¹³ Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

¹⁴ If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

¹⁵ If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

2 Corinthians 5:10

¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Conclusion:

I spoke with Brother Hemanth Peter yesterday and he shared an illustration with me. This watch is made by a company called ORIGINAL GRAIN. They can make watches, but they cannot make time. No one can make time. We have a certain amount trusted to us and when it is gone you will never get it back.