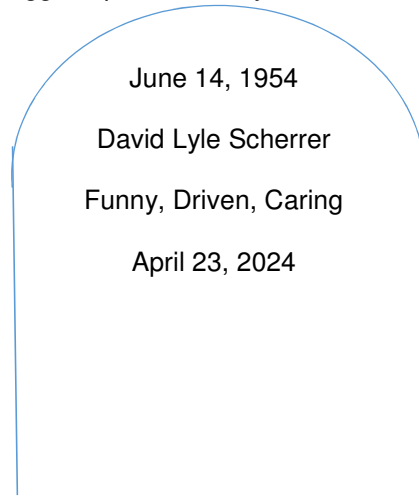


Christ Community Covenant Church
Simplicity: Overscheduled but Underinvested
Pastor Dave Scherrer - April 19, 2015

Let's play a game, try this:

- About two thirds of the way down the page put your birthdate, I'd put June 14, 1954
- Then put your full name including middle,
- Then put three words that you think others would describe you as, maybe your mom and dad or children or spouse, close friend
- Then chose a random date in the next ten years

Now finish it off by putting a kind of egg shaped boundary around it. It should look something like this:



What does that look like to you?

DLS Tombstone Picture

Who do you want to become?

***"All plenty which is not my God is poverty to me."
St. Augustine***

***"I place no value in anything I possess except in relation to the Kingdom of God."
Missionary, Dr. David Livingston***

Maybe you are not comfortable with these three words defining your life. Choices you make on how you spend your time and live your life will define your 'dash' (the time between your birthdate and death date). They define your heritage, what is left behind. However those things are temporary. More important, they define your eternity. You cannot blame anyone else; you and you alone are responsible for how you handle your circumstances. Notice how I said that – you are responsible for how you 'handle your circumstances.'

You are not fully responsible for your circumstances; bad things happen in a fallen world, right? But in Psalms we read that "The steps of a man are established by the LORD" (Ps. 37:23) and now we are urged to "Walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called" (Ephesian 4:1).

This is why I believe that this sermon series is so important, worthy of calling it a life and death series. Our lives and the quality of our lives, the quality of our abundant life, are dependent on our attitude and our actions.

To simplify our lives is to be disentangled, or as the scriptures say unencumbered, from the passing world so that we can devote more of ourselves to the things of the Kingdom. Jesus says we are “To seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness – then everything else will be added to your life.” This is the one thing we spoke of last week.

One thing

Matthew 6

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust^[e] destroy and where thieves break in and steal,²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.²⁵ I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

You are not as useful to God as both you and He would like if your life is encumbered with sin and unnecessarily complicated with temporary affairs of the world.

Discussion: What is different about our resource of time than any other resource?

Money we can earn more of, generally our health we can improve through good choices, space resources can be rented, things hoarded, but time is spent whether we want to or not. Yesterday is over, tomorrow is not guaranteed. All we have this is moment I am in. That's it.

Today is the day of salvation. Let's look at our passage together:

Luke 5:1-8

On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret,² and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets.³ Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat.⁴ ***And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.’***⁵ ***And Simon answered, ‘Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.’***⁶ And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking.⁷ They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, ***‘Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.’***

I see three things in this passage that speak to the managing our time:

1. Spiritual Prompts

Do you sometimes have spiritual prompts? Learning to hear the voice and to discern the voice – these abilities come from abiding and from knowing the Word. If you schedule 100% of your time for yourself you will not have time in the day for God and for others. They both will feel like inconveniences and disruptions to your agenda for the day. God is not to be a distraction in your busy self-centered schedule. He is to be the purpose of the day. Listen to what the brother of Jesus wrote;

James 4:13-17

Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— **yet** you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

2. The Lord desires to bless us and direct that blessing

It is not the fish that is the blessing; it is the redirection of our lives. Jesus will go on and tell the disciples that if they follow Him, He will make them fishers of men. Jesus desires to bless us but we have to be prepared to adjust our schedule, indeed our very life priorities, to receive that re-directed blessing.

3. Obedience and Worship is always our proper response.

- a. Nevertheless, at your word I will let down the nets
- b. He fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

How would things look if God were in control of your schedule?

What if you gave permission to God to inform you how you fill in the boxes on a day by day basis? God wants the best for you. Sometimes we fill in our week with good things, and in this case the good things are the enemy of the best. I find it true all the time in my life. If I do not ask God for help, I will use my frail temporary wisdom to try to get my schedule right. If you have it in mind that God will be pleased with your life and that you will hear the words **"Well done good and faithful"** then you need to relinquish control of your time to God.

Here are five places you can let God re-direct your life:

1. Connecting with God – Make church attendance a commitment and then find one more way during the week to connect or serve your church family. You are not serving me, you are serving each other and you are pleasing God by reaching out to the people who are God's Bride. Take the initiative to connect with and serve God.

2. Connecting with family – All of us have different schedules and different life stage developments. The reality is though that your family spells love T-I-M-E, quality time and quantity time. Schedule time in every week to connect with those you love. Write it in your appointment book right now. Punch it into your phone as a repeating appointment.

3. Satisfying work – You can claim back your vocation by working as unto the Lord and by re-directing what you think will be the blessing from your endeavor. Peter thought his profession was fishing, turns out it was fishing for men. Is God re-directing your vocation and perhaps your avocation? There was once a lawyer who hated his work, but he didn't know how to get out of it. He wanted to write but he didn't know if he could make a career of it and he didn't really have time. So he got to work an hour early and wrote for an hour every day, working on his first novel. He wrote *A Time to Kill* in 1989 and his name is John Grisham. He was able to give up the career he hated. That doesn't happen all the time; it might not happen to you. But you can explore what you love to do and do it for the sake of Christ. Eric Liddell: **"I believe God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast. And when I run I feel His pleasure."**

4. Meaningful recreation – Schedule one night a week where you do not watch TV and you do not drink or snack your way through the evening. Put together a model plane, play your guitar, read a book, write a book, walk the dog, walk your spouse, compose a poem, memorize a verse, take a dance class, plant a flower, take up racket ball or darts. Go visit the neighbors, come sing with the worship team, tutor a child or teen, one night a week. If you need help, text me or call me and I will help you think it through, right now, 303 884-9595.

5. Exercise – We do not get enough and we are not ready to do the hard work of the Spirit because we are out of shape. 7 minutes a day is something.

Fight the drift: What is YOUR one word?

Write it in your daily calendar

Discussion Questions

Why is it so hard to get control of our calendar? Why is it so hard to say “no!”

Can you think of some Bible verses about time? (see attached below for some)

What do you think the Lord has to say about our use of time?

Dave read from Luke 5 on Sunday on the story of Simon Peter and the great catch. What happened to Peter that did not seem to happen to any of the other disciples? Why do you think he was so changed and others were not?

Luke 5:1-8

On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, ² and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³ Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. ⁴ **And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.’** ⁵ **And Simon answered, ‘Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.’** ⁶ And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. ⁷ They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, **‘Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.’**

What do you make of spiritual prompts? Do you get these blips from God to pray or to do something? What does that look like for you?

How are we to tell if these spiritual prompts are from God, or from our flesh or from the evil one tempting us?

Dave quoted a verse from the gospel of John (10:27, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”) Is it up to us to recognize His voice or is this God’s problem?

Dave talked about 5 things we can look at in relationship to giving time back to God:

- 1. Connecting with God**
- 2. Connecting with family**
- 3. Satisfying work**
- 4. Meaningful recreation**
- 5. Exercise**

Any of these hit home with you?

What is the one thing? (Matthew 6:33)

³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Verses on Time

Ephesians 5:15-17

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Psalms 90:12

So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

Colossians 4:5

Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

Ecclesiastes 3:8

A time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

Luke 14:28

For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?

Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

James 4:13-17

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

Psalms 39:4-5

"O Lord, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am! Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you. Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath! Selah

Proverbs 16:9

The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.

John 9:4

We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.

Proverbs 3:1-2

My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.