

Weekly Prayer Strategy

27 February – 5 March 2017

This week's prayer strategy is based on the sermon by Paul Nyamuda on what the bible teaches about using our time.

Prayer Point 1

- Pray for creative ideas to help you to become more efficient in the use of time.**
- Pray that God shows you things in your life to audit such as the meetings you attend.**

A. We ought to be wise in our use of time (Ephesians 5:15 – 17).

“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*.”

Wisdom is seen largely in how you spend your time. Inefficiency is often a reflection of foolishness. Could it be that you are always tired, not because you have a lot to do but you have been unwise in how you schedule it? Eg taking an audit of all your meetings and realizing a lot of them are massive timewasters.

Prayer Point 2

- Pray that God gives you clarity with regards to His will for your life.**
- Pray that you gain understanding with regards to what season you are in.**

B. There is a relationship between using time productively and knowing God's will for our lives. (Ephesians 5:17)

If you don't know God's will for your life, you could be very efficient but efficiently doing the wrong thing. Alternatively you could be distracted from your primary purpose. This is where many people live. They know God's general purpose but are not clear about what he wants them to do in this season. Are you trying to launch out but God actually wants you to be mentored for now? Are you going for training yet God in this season wants you to launch out? So let's be like the sons of Issachar.

1 Chron 12:32 NLT From the tribe of Issachar, there were 200 leaders of the tribe with their relatives. All these men understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take.

Prayer Point 3

- Pray that God gives you the courage to set healthy boundaries in your life.**
- Pray that you are not distracted trying to rescue everyone whilst missing your assignment from heaven.**

C. The need does not always constitute a call (Mark 6: 30-44).

“And the apostles gathered themselves to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught. And He said to them, Come aside into a deserted place and rest a little. For there were many coming and going, and they had no opportunity even to eat. And they departed by boat into a deserted place. And the crowds saw them leaving, and many knew Him. And they ran together on foot there, out of the cities. And they went before them and came together to Him. And going out Jesus saw a large crowd. And He was moved with compassion toward them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And He began to teach them many things.”

Jesus was exercising Boundaries without feeling guilty. Many people have collapsed boundaries.

D. Our activities should ultimately be directed by the Father’s will (Mark 1: 32-39).

“And at evening, when the sun set, they brought all those who were diseased to Him, and those who had been demon-possessed. And all the city had gathered at the door. And He healed many who were sick of different diseases, and cast out many demons. And He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him. And rising up quite early in the night, He went out and went away into a deserted place, and He was praying there. And Simon, and those with him, searched for Him. And finding Him, they said to Him, All are seeking You. And He said to them, Let us go into the next towns so that I may proclaim there also. For that reason I came forth. And He proclaimed in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and cast out demons.”

I want to invest my time only in things that honour God and extend His kingdom.

I wonder what Jesus was praying about. Maybe He saw the demand from the people and was asking His father whether it was time to move on or not.

The key is not in spending time, but in investing it.

Stephen R. Covey

E. There is a time for everything (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8).

“To every thing there is a season, and a time for every purpose under the heavens: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pull up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.”

F. God has timing for certain things (Gal 4:4).

“But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son.”

Remember this is just for some things. Just because something happens at a certain time does not mean that was God’s desire. Sometimes our participation is needed. For example the gospel shall first be preached to all nations then the end will come. God’s timing is often linked to purpose. Life is arrived at in stages. Are you doing what God needs to be done in order for Him to initiate the next phase of your life.

Prayer Point 4

- Pray that you pass the tests in your life so that you can go to your next level.**
- Pray that God gives us wisdom to know to whom we can delegate work.**
- Pray for freedom from guilt due to weights we have placed on ourselves with regards to what we are expected to do.**

G. We ought to conserve our energy levels by responsibly delegating certain activities

The things you loathe are loved by some people. Delegation is important because you need energy for the things He has called you to do.

Exodus 18:17-24

“And Moses' father-in-law said to him, The thing that you do is not good. You will surely wear away, both you and this people that is with you. For this thing is too heavy for you; you are not able to perform it alone. Listen now to my voice; I will give you counsel, and God will be with you. You be for the people toward God, that you may bring the causes to God. And you shall teach them ordinances and laws, and shall make them know the way in which they must walk, and the work that they must do. And you shall look out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating unjust gain. And place such over them to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. And let them judge the people at all times. And it shall be, every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they shall judge. And make it easier for yourself, and they shall bear with you. If you will do this thing, and God command you, then you shall be able to endure, and all this people shall also go to their place in peace. And Moses listened to the voice of his father-in-law, and did all that he had said.”

Maybe you actually need domestic help but you are trying to save. Maybe having help will free up your time to do your primary purpose. Maybe taking the time to train up people today will actually save you lots of time in 6 months.

Prayer Point 5

- Pray that you begin to number your days.**
- Pray that the fear of the Lord comes into your life with regards to the use of time.**
- Pray that you develop a stewardship mentality knowing that you have to one day give an account of your use of time.**

- Pray this over the young people you know that God convicts them of the judgement seat of Christ and that they stop thinking they will be around forever.
- Pray that we gain a deeper understanding of investing our time (we sow and reap in our use of time).

H. We should not take the time we have been given for granted (Ps 90:12; Ps 39:4).

Ps 90:12 *"So teach us to number our days, so that we may bring a heart of wisdom."*

You only have your kids for a while. Maximize on it. Our human tendency is to assume that we have all the time in the world. Cricket is more fun when there are limited overs. Life has limited overs.

Ps 39:4 *"O Lord, make me to know my end, and the measure of my days, what it is; I know how frail I am."*

You are not going to be here forever. Have you seen how well your team plays when the game is about to end.

I. We all have to give an account for how we used our time on earth (2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:10-12).

2 Cor 5:10 *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due to them for the things done through the body, according to that which he has done, whether good or bad."*

Rom. 14:10-12 *"But why do you judge your brother? Or also why do you despise your brother? For all shall stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God." So then each one of us will give account concerning himself to God."*

Activity

Study Gen. 41:25-57 and identify where there are various time management and personal management principles such as goal-setting, priorities, delegation, scheduling, deadlines and lists.