



Week 1: Sowing Time... *The Key Is Not How You Spend It, But How You Invest It*

TIME IS WHAT WE HAVE:

⁷ Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. **You will always harvest what you plant.** ⁸ Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. ⁹ So let's not get tired of doing what is good. **At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.** ¹⁰ Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith. (Gal 6:7–10 NLT-SE)

- The Time Reality

- Biblical time was not generally focused on days, hours, and minutes, but with seasons and years. The pace at which our culture moves has created an expectation for “microwave” answers to prayer.
 - ¹⁴ But as for me, I trust in You, O Lord, I say, “You are my God.” ¹⁵ **My times (My future) are in Your hand...** (Psa 31:14–15 NAS95)
- There is no such thing as “saving time.” All of us have only 24 hours a day to work with. What we do with that time will reflect either what we value or what we are in bondage to. It all boils down to whether we choose to **spend** time, **invest** time, or **waste** time.
- **Spending time** with God is not the same as **investing time** into building a deep relationship with Jesus. One fulfills an obligation for today and the other prepares you for an incredible relationship with the Lover of your soul for eternity!

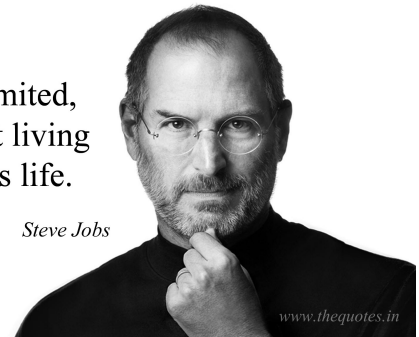
- What Will You Do With Your Time?

- **All of us wake up each day with 24 hours to work with.** Rich, poor, weak, strong, no one gets more and no-one less. So, what will you do with the time you've been given? When it comes to how we use our time, much of what the Holy Spirit does to lead us, not by telling us what to do, but by reminding us of our limitations without God's influence and impact over our decisions...

- Teach us to realize **the brevity of life**, so that we may **grow in wisdom**. (Psa 90:12 NLT-SE)
- ⁴ “Lord, remind me how **brief** my time on earth will be. Remind me that **my days are numbered**— how fleeting my life is. ⁵ You have made my life no longer than the width of my hand. My entire lifetime is just a moment to you; at best, each of us is but a breath.” (Psa 39:4–5 NLT-SE)

Your time is limited,
so don't waste it living
someone else's life.

Steve Jobs



“God’s peace...will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” (Phil 4:7 NLT-SE)

- **Any significant advancement of God’s kingdom will invariably be linked to timing.** This is by God’s design. We have been given the gift and responsibility of free will, which enables us to cooperate with God in seeing his kingdom move forward. When we yield to his lordship in our lives, letting him guide our decisions, something beautiful happens...
- ¹ For everything there is a season, **a time for every activity under heaven**. ² A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest. ³ A time to kill and a time to heal. A time to tear down and a time to build up. ⁴ A time to cry and a time to laugh. A time to grieve and a time to dance. ⁵ A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones. A time to embrace and a time to turn away. ⁶ A time to search and a time to quit searching. A time to keep and a time to throw away. ⁷ A time to tear and a time to mend. A time to be quiet and a time to speak. ⁸ A time to love and a time to hate. A time for war and a time for peace. ⁹ What do people really get for all their hard work? ¹⁰ I have seen the burden God has placed on us all. ¹¹ **Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart...** (Eccl 3:1–11 NLT-SE)
- ¹⁵ So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. ¹⁶ **Make the most of every opportunity** in these evil days. (Eph 5:15–16 NLT-SE)
- Thinking that we have “**all the time in the world**” to accomplish what we feel compelled to do with our lives is an illusion.
- This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; **time is running out. Wake up**, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. (Rom 13:11 NLT-SE)
- But let me say this, dear brothers and sisters: **The time that remains is very short**. So from now on, those with wives should not focus only on their marriage. (1 Cor 7:29 NLT-SE)

“The graveyard is the richest place on the surface of the earth because there you will see the books that were not published, ideas that were not harnessed, songs that were not sung, and drama pieces that were never acted.” ~ Dr. Myles Munroe

SOWING IS HOW WE INVEST:

- **Parables of the Kingdom:** Matthew 13

What is a Kingdom: A Kingdom is the governing influence of a King over a territory, impacting it with his will, his purpose and his intent, producing a citizenship of people who reflect the King's culture, nature, values, and morals (*lifestyle - dress like the King, speak the language of the King*).

Scripture	Title	Meaning
Matt 13:1-23	The Parable of the Sower	The good news of the gospel will be rejected by most people.
Matt 13:24-30, 36-43	The Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds	People with genuine faith and people with a false profession of faith will exist together between Christ's two Advents.
Matt 13:31-32	The Parable of the Mustard Seed	Christendom, including believers and unbelievers, will grow rapidly from a small beginning.
Matt 13:33-35	The Parable of the Yeast	People who profess to belong to God will grow in numbers without being stopped.
Matt 13:44	The Parable of the Hidden Treasure	Christ came to purchase (redeem) Israel, God's treasured possession.
Matt 13:45-46	The Parable of the Pearl	Christ gave His life to provide redemption for the church.
Matt 13:47-52	The Parable of the Net	Angels will separate the wicked from the righteous when Christ comes.

What does spending time look like?

- It looks like occupying space, but nothing changes...ever.
- Giving, with no expectation of fruit.
- Pouring out, but not being refilled. The key word here is "but."
- Spending time is many times equivalent to "wasting time."

What does investing time look like?

- Investing leaves a mark. It makes an impression. It creates space for change.
- Fruit comes. It may take a little more time, but it will eventually come.
- The expectation is different. There is an understanding that every bit of time that's invested will be redeemed. **Nothing is wasted!**
 - ¹⁰ "The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. ¹¹ It is the same with my word. **I send it out, and it always produces fruit.** It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it. ¹² You will live in joy and peace. The mountains and hills will burst into song, and the trees of the field will clap their hands! (Is 55:10–12 NLT-SE)

UNDERSTANDING IS WHAT WE RECEIVE:

Question: What will we harvest if we will faithfully sow TIME into the kingdom?

We will harvest understanding!

KNOWLEDGE	UNDERSTANDING	WISDOM
The Facts	The ability to translate meaning from the facts	Knowing what to do next, given an understanding of the facts and circumstances
Perception (What)	Comprehension (How)	Why it exists (Why)
Identifying things and situations	Comprehending how things are caused	Making better decisions
Perception of boundaries	Perception of casual relationships	Perception of purpose
Prov 9:10, Prov 18:15, Col 2:8, 1 Tim 2:4	Psalms 119:130, Prov 3:5-7, 18:2, Phil 1:9-10	Ecclesiastes 8:1, James 3:17

- **The fruit of the time we invest is in the understanding we gain.** When understanding is given time to mature, we gain wisdom. When we then walk in that wisdom, we see the fruit of our investment of time...the advancing of God's kingdom!
 - *Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, **making the best use of the time.*** (Col 4:5 ESV)
 - ¹ *As God's partners, we beg you not to accept this marvelous gift of God's kindness and then ignore it. ² For God says, "**At just the right time, I heard you.** On the day of salvation, I helped you."* (2 Cor 6:1-2 NLT-SE)
 - ⁹ *I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will **keep on growing in knowledge and understanding.*** ¹⁰ *For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return.* (Phil 1:9-10 NLT-SE)
 - ¹¹ *He replied, "You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but others are not. ¹² **To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge.** But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them. ¹³ That is why I use these parables, For they look, but they don't really see. They hear, but they don't really listen or understand.* (Matt 13:11-13 NLT-SE)