

**Joshua 1:8** "...For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

**Proverbs 6:6-8** "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest."

# TIME WELL SPENT

## *The Danger of missed Opportunities*

**Proverbs 10:5** "He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame."

How have you been spending your time? The thing about time is that we all receive the same amount. It is how we spend the time we are given that will determine our success. This is a message about foresight and priority and if you spend your time wisely, you will avoid missed opportunities in life.

In **Proverbs 10:4-5**, it states that "He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich. He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame."

You are wise when you gather in the summer. This word "wise" is also translated "success" in **Joshua 1:8**. A "successful" son performs his work at the right time (i.e. early rather than late). He gathers in the harvest at the proper time and not at the last minute. However, a son that does not gather in the summer is actually in opposition against his father.

In **Proverbs 6:6-8** we learn a lesson from the ant. These creatures have enough wisdom to know that if

they are going to be successful in the winter they better work during the summer.

What type of son are you? Do you do your work early or do you sleep? Do you get a jumpstart on things or are you a sluggard? We meet with failure when we sleep during the harvest time. Harvest work is the most important work. There is only a limited amount of time to do harvest work. You cannot put this work off until later, it has to be done early, in the allotted time or you won't be able to do it.

We bring shame when we don't work when we are supposed to. **Proverbs 10:1** "A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother." The work you do is not just your work. You are entering in on others labor. When you don't do what you are supposed to do, when you are supposed to do it; you are wasting those other peoples' time! You are working against them. You are fighting against God when you are a lazy son. **Mathew 12:30** says "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth



His work on time but are you? Are you working with God or are you sabotaging God? Failure to gather the harvest is an act of sabotage (a deliberate act to destroy profits; to work carelessly or clumsily. We are all called to work on God's team but are you sabotaging His work?

People who are sleeping, slothful, inactive, unconcerned, sluggards, putting off until later, slow moving, unmotivated or don't really care; are people who are sabotaging (working against) God's plan. This is the improper way to spend our time. This is time that is being wasted and we are in danger of missing out on what may be our last opportunity to do what God has purposed for us to do. If we want to be wise sons, we must use that God has given use wisely, following the example of the ant, so that we can gather in this harvest on time.

## DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?

We are not on our own time. Every day we wait, we are sabotaging the harvest. When its harvest time, all-hands-are-on-deck. It takes everybody doing their job in order to bring the harvest in on time. Everybody should be working and if you are not, you are putting our success at risk. **Romans 13:11-14** says "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof." Not only is Jesus our protection (armor), but He's our pattern and example! We've got to know what time it is. If you are not working with God, you are fast asleep, and if you are asleep, you are unproductive.



# Stop sleeping God's time away!

*John 4:34-35 "Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."*

This work has to do with our salvation! When you are awake you put on the Lord Jesus. If you want to go to work, you must put on Jesus and do what was His job. Stop sleeping God's time away!

In **John 4:34-35**, Jesus reminds us that we don't have to wait for the spiritual harvest, it's ready now! However, we must act promptly and not delay. **Ephesians 5:14-16** says "Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

We need to ask the Lord to number our days. Why do we live our lives in the night but we waste the day time when we could have been working? If God gives you a chance to make up lost time you need to rejoice. Don't through away your good years, when you have the strength of life. **There is value in time well spent!**

Jesus reminds us that if we act promptly, awake from our sleep, Christ will help us by giving us **LIGHT**. To "redeem the time"

does not mean to regain time lost. **HARVEST TIME CANNOT BE REGAINED ONCE IT IS LOST!** To redeem the time means "to buy up every opportunity". In order to **BUY UP** something, it will require you to **GIVE UP** something.

## **HARVESTING IS ALL ABOUT TIMING!**

(1) If we work at the right time (i.e. while the people's hearts are prepared), *the work can be done quickly* (see **2 Chronicles 29:36**).

(2) If we work at the right time *there will be a reward* (see **John 4:36**). Notice how the workers receive (presently) wages and not just "shall" receive as in Matthew 25.

(3) If we work at the right time *we will reap with joy* (see **John 4:36; 1 Thessalonians 2:19**). You are always happy when you are doing what you are supposed to be doing.

Jesus is satisfied in doing the will of His Father. His will was to get full off of God's will. We start off with joy, but

will we finish in joy? If we put on the Lord Jesus, we will know how to spend our time wisely and be satisfied as well.

**Harvest time demands a proper response.** We cannot wait or the harvest will spoil in the field. We only have a certain amount of time to get the harvest in. Some jobs demand promptness and you can't just get there whenever you want to. You have to buy up the opportunity so that the opportunity won't be lost. It is like seeing merchandise and buying it all up now at the right price. When the opportunity arises, you are to jump on it right away. If we miss it, people die. Many people are hanging out and **God is calling us to work!** Every time you take advantage of an opportunity, you have to give up something. Working for God will cost us something. Timing is everything! We are never going to get this time again. We need to stop being inactive, and buy up every time, every opportunity to work. **There is a danger if we miss out on this opportunity to have time well spent.**

## THE HARVEST IS RIPE LET'S GATHER IN THE LOST



When you wait for the perfect opportunity you usually never do anything. **Ecclesiastes 11:4-6** says "He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap. As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all. In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good."

We have to sow now, work now and buy up every opportunity now because we don't know what is going to make the greatest impact. Any opportunity to get involved, take it!

We need everyone's help because there are fields of opportunity (see **John 4:35**). When the wheat turns from yellow to white its harvest time. If you don't pick the wheat now (bring people to Christ) they will get deceived. It's harder to reprogram them than to program them right from the start. We have the chance to tell others about Jesus (see Acts 20:26). We purify our hands when we go to work. Only what you do for Christ, at the right time, will last. The right response, at the right time is what makes us not miss the opportunity.



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