

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: [Luke 12:16-21](#). Sentinel, OK ,14.
- B. Phillips Petroleum commercial about the break (able) jar and patients who don't have much time.
- C. Story of a man who was granted his wish of the newspaper, only to plan a financial fortune, and see his obituary.
- D. The point is we don't have much time, we must use it wisely.
- E. Today's lesson begins with a man who ran out of time.

I. THE MAN THOUGHT HE HAD MANY DAYS AND MANY POSSESSIONS.

- A. One thing the man in the parable thought was that he had many days (years) ahead of him. But his soul was required of him that night.
- B. He was living as most of us do, figuring he had a lot more time.
- C. But one of the best ways Satan has to tempt us is to make us believe that we can put things off to tomorrow.
- D. The other mistake this man made was thinking that he had many possessions to make life easy and enjoyable for the remainder of it.
- E. He learned a bitter lesson that possessions are not important at death, for then someone else will care for what he had owned.
- F. We must realize that we are only stewards of all that we have (all that God has given us).

II. WE MUST REALIZE THAT WE TOO ARE RUNNING OUT OF TIME.

- A. Jesus knew that his time with the apostles was short (Jn. 7:33).
- B. James tells us that our life is like a vapor, and after appearing for a little while and vanishes away (Jas. 4:14).
- C. Because each day is so valuable we should learn to number them (Psa. 90:10-12).

III. HOWTO SPEND OUR LITTLE WHILE.

- A. We should spend time in forgiving others:
 - 1. Jesus' example shows that he didn't have time to hold grudges:
 - a. The woman caught in adultery (Jn. 8:1-11).
 - b. His attitude toward Peter's denial (Lk. 22 :31,32).
 - 2. Jesus' attitude toward His own murderers (Lk. 23:31).
 - 3. Even Stephen asked for the forgiveness of those throwing stones (Ac. 7:60).
- B. We should spend time in serving others:
 - 1. Jesus came to serve and not be served (Mt. 20:28).
 - 2. Care for the physical needs of others (Mt. 25 :31-46).
 - 3. Care for the spiritual needs as well (Mk. 16:15).
- C. Spend time in prayer (for others):
 - 1. Even Christ, who was with the Father from the beginning, and was to be with Him forever, found time to pray.
 - 2. We are to have an attitude of prayer (1Th. 5:17).
 - 3. Recognize that prayer changes things (Jas. 5:16b).
- D. Spend time dodging. sin:
 - 1. Some people want to know how close to sin they can get without committing it.
EXAMPLES:
 - a. How many drinks can I have and not be drunk?
 - b. How many services can I miss and still be faithful?

- c. Do I really have to visit the sick?
- d. Do I have to study my Bible every day?
we DON'T HAVE TIME to answer questions like that!
- 2. Jesus said that night is coming when no man can work (Jn. 9:4).
- 3. The problem is that our minds are not focused on things above (Col. 3:1-5).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Life is too short to "play around with sin."
- B. Life is too short to "put off being faithful until tomorrow."
- C. Life it too short because WE ARE RUNNING OUT OF TIME!
- D. The story of Mary Custer, she ran out of time.
- E. Be faithful to God today, before you run out of time.
- F. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.