TIK, TOK, TIK, TOK

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic By: Sis Techie M. Rodriguez Nov. 19, 2022

We live in a fast-paced world where everyone wants to short-cut processes: instant messaging, unlimited information and access to internet, instant banking (ATM), instant food, even instant marriages and divorces. Everything is done in a hurry. Truly, time is precious and valuable; once spent we can't take it back. However, we can control time. During Jesus' ministry, He shared His time excellently to fulfill His mission to seek and save the lost. He prayed to choose His 12 apostles, trained and mentored them to be commissioned. He was not going to stay on earth for more than 3 years, and He needed them to continue His mission. Further, Jesus never wasted His time; He spent time wisely with counseling, teaching, healing the sick and even socializing, by attending the wedding at Cana and performing a miracle (John 2:1-11). Like Jesus, we have the freedom to choose how to spend the time God has given us, and use our time to serve Him.

1. How do we redeem our time?

1.1. Time is limited:

"Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment." (Heb. 9:27)

1.2 Time is fleeting:

"Man is like a breath, his days like a fleeting shadow." (Ps. 144-4)

1.3 We should remember that that:

Time is easily lost.

Time can't be borrowed.

Time can't be stored; it can only be consumed.

Time can't be stopped (like a stopwatch).

Time can't be stretched (like a rubber band).

Time is valuable. Use every minute wisely.

Time flies, but we are in control.

Time lies. Saying "I don't have time" is not true. We can make time and find time.

2. Life Span: In the Bible, the oldest man was Methuselah, son of Enoch who died at the age of 969 (Gen 6:3). However, man's life span has decreased rapidly. Moses only lived up to 120 years (Gen. 31:19). Today, the average life span of

man is 70, "the length of our days is 70 years or 80 if we are strong" (Ps. 91:10).

3. How did Paul redeem his time? Paul used to be a prosecutor, but after he became a follower of Jesus, he made up for those times. He evangelized despite so many terrible obstacles — he was blocked, brought to court and imprisoned. For his previous bad acts, he performed good deeds. Thus, when he was ready to die, he said "I have fought a good fight of faith, I am ready to receive the crown of life" (2 Tim 4:7-8).

4. Why must we redeem our time?

- 4.1 We have lost much time already. Even when Jesus was tired from doing His missions, He still went off very early in the morning, to a lonely place where He prayed" (Mark 1:35).
- 4.2 We don't know how much time is left for us. "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, to profess faith without showing works?" (James 2:14)
- 4.3 We must give an account of all the time and opportunities. "So each of us will account for himself before God" (Rom. 14:12).

5. Three (3) ways to redeem our time:

- 1. Spend more time with God.
- 2. We must always be in sync with time and we must go to church and receive communion.
- 3. Decide that God comes first in our life.

Conclusion:

God is the author of time. Every tick of the clock – TIK, TOK, TIK, TOK, someone is born and someone dies. Only God destined our life on earth. Thus, we must hasten for life is short. Let us do works of mercy, salvific acts to save us from the clutches of evil.

Reflection:

- 1. What are you doing with the time you have right now?
- 2. Are you redeeming the time as Paul inspired us to do?

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