

2020- Embracing a New Vision
Time- Week #12
Small Group Notes
June 25 and 28

Main Point: Embracing a new vision in our lives means that we value the time that God has given us!

Introduction:

What has been a quote or saying that you have heard about time? When do you often use it?

Read the following quote from Steve Jobs: “My favorite things in life don’t cost any money. It’s really clear that the most precious resource we all have is time.” What does he mean in this quote? How have you seen this true in your life?

Before the session, read John 11: 1-15

Today we are going to discuss what it means for us to value our time to honor the Lord.

Discuss:

Embracing a new vision of time:

1. Vision sees time as limited.

- Read John 11:14
- A person of vision faces the reality of their mortality. Read James 4:13-14, Hebrews 9:27
- With time, I can spend it, waste it, or invest it
- A person of vision lives in light of eternity

Explain: We tend to ignore the fact that our days are numbered. But just because we don’t know when our lives will end doesn’t change the fact that we have a limited amount of time on this earth. Jesus, however, knew the circumstances of His death and because of this, He lived with a focused intensity. As He neared the end of His life, He proved that He alone has the power over life and death.

How different would your life be if you knew you had 30 days to live?

Think about the opposite way. If you only had 30 days left to live, what is something you would wish you did more of?

Share about a time when you regretted an investment you made with your time. Why do you think we sometimes regret the investments we make? What does that tell us about ourselves?

2. Vision sees God's glory more important than my time.

- Read John 11:4-7
- A person of vision realizes delay is not God's disinterest, but a part of His divine purpose.
- When God waits it's always worth it. Read John 11:21-27, 38-44.
- God wants to destroy our "bumper sticker" religion so He can bring to life true belief!
- Vision is not forged in the dark
- Vision understands believing is seeing!

Explain: Even though most of us would turn and run if we knew we were about to die, Jesus instead chose to walk right into His execution. That's because He knew the why behind His death. When we realize this, we can see the great intentionality behind what Jesus said and did during His last days on earth, beginning with His trip to Bethany.

Why is it important for us to recognize that Jesus was fully aware that He was about to die? How does knowing that change the way we look at the last two weeks of His life?

What is a stone that God might be calling you to roll away to see your resurrection story?

3. Vision understands that our time here is not all there is.

- Read John 11:25-26.
- Vision sees the person, not just the event called resurrection
- A person of vision sees this life as merely the preseason! Read 1 Corinthians 2:9-10; Matthew 6:19-21

Explain: Jesus knows better than any of us just how broken the world is. When He is confronted with the suffering of the world, He isn't passive; He's angry. In fact, Jesus feels the pain of a broken world more deeply than we do. Amazingly, Jesus, the Son of God, wept at the tomb. Though He knew that He was going to turn this funeral into a party, Jesus still weeps with His people. Wonderfully, we can know that Jesus offers us something more than trite cliches; He offers us His tears and emotional investment.

In what ways are you living your life like this time is all there is?

Why do you think Jesus asked Martha to believe in Him before He gave her a miraculous physical reason to believe?

What does Jesus' reaction to Mary reveal about the heart of God?

Do:

What is one way you can follow the example of Jesus and be fully present in the moment with those you encounter? What kinds of things keep you from being present in the moment?

How does it change the way you view your time? What is one action step that you can take to change how you use your time more for God's glory?