



Worship – Part 27
Acts of Worship – Part 15
Worshipping God with Our Time – Part 2
GCSP – 11/10/2007

There once was a classical musician and his name was Mr. Holland. Mr. Holland was talented and well trained. He played in several orchestras and bands and even began to write a symphony. Music was his life.

Playing in a band did not generate enough income for him and his new wife so Mr. Holland took a job as the music teacher at a local small town high school. The young couple made meticulous plans and determined that Mr. Holland could spend his summers working on his symphony and after four years as a teacher and the savings they already had he would be able to pursue his dream of writing, playing, and conducting his music on a full time basis.

Then Mrs. Holland got pregnant. Their studio apartment was now too small to suit their needs. A house was in order for this now growing family so they took their savings and used it as a down payment. This put a serious wrinkle in their plans. Instead of working on his symphony during the summers, Mr. Holland now added the responsibility of teaching drivers education. All the while knowing he would one day be a famous composer and conductor.

They had a son. Knowing that one of her husband's favorite musicians was John Coltrane Mrs. Holland named the boy Coltrane; Cole for short. And even though life was not going quite as planned, life was good. Then they discovered that their little boy was deaf. Mr. Holland took this harder than Mrs. Holland. Remember, his life was wrapped around music. His own son would never be able to appreciate what his father devoted his life to.

The years pass by. The unfinished symphony always gets pushed to the back of the pile. The struggle of life consumes all of Mr. Holland's time. His temporary career of being a high school music teacher stretches out to over thirty years. He never became the famous composer or conductor. Then the news comes that the music department is being cut from the school's budget. He now can't even teach music; which he has grown to love doing. He has feelings that he has somewhat wasted his life and his time.

As he is cleaning out his classroom for the final time, his now grown son and his wife come to escort him out the school doors for the last time. Heading down the hallway, he hears some music and a lot of commotion coming from the auditorium. Curious, he walks through the doors to cheers and shouts. The place is packed with current and thirty years worth of former students.

Thirty years worth of lives he had touched while on this detour from the life he had imagined. The governor of the state is the master of ceremonies – a former student that he coached and tutored so she would not give up playing the clarinet. Unbeknown to Mr. Holland, Mrs. Holland and many others had organized this celebration of his life, and an accumulated orchestra of his students, were now ready to play the symphony he had worked on in bits and pieces through the last thirty years.

With tears in his eyes, Mr. Holland climbed up onto the stage, took the baton, and for the very first time conducted his symphony.

Did Mr. Holland waste his life and his time?

Some of you may have recognized the story. It was a movie, starring Richard Dreyfus, called Mr. Holland's Opus. The point of which is you are not wasting your life or your time when you are pouring your life into other people.

We started last week looking into this aspect of worshipping God with our time. And I am using one specific day in the life of Jesus to help us analyze what we do with our time.

So please turn with me in your Bibles to **Mark 1**.

Mark 1:21-39

Let's pray.

On this particular day:

1. Jesus was in His place on the appointed day that the people gathered for worship – showing us the importance of our attendance at the appointed times of gathering together.
2. He taught others about the kingdom – showing us the importance of transferring the godly knowledge and wisdom we have been given to others.
3. He cast out a demon and thus released a man who was in spiritual bondage – showing us the importance of helping those who are outside the kingdom.
4. He healed a woman and allowed her to fulfill her ministry of service to others – showing us the importance of helping others get back on their feet to regain their dignity and purpose in life.
5. He enjoyed the fellowship of His companions over a meal – showing us the importance of breaking away from the busyness of the day, the importance of relaxing and connecting with others, and the importance of physical nourishment.
6. He ministered to strangers – showing us the importance of having compassion on those who are less fortunate than we and the importance to view all mankind without partiality.
7. He went to sleep – showing us the importance of physical rest.
8. He arose early the next morning to commune with God – showing us the importance of recharging our spiritual lives.

We looked over the first four aspects of how Jesus allocated His time on this particular day last time, and we will look at the last four tonight. And let me say something here that I may not have explained last time: This was a very busy day in the life of our Lord. He had a lot of days like this but He also had days where He was able to get away from the hectic pace and enjoy a more peaceful day alone or with His closest friends. My purpose in these sermons is to show us how to worship God with our time, not that we have to duplicate the busyness of this day in the life of Jesus.

1. *Church Attendance* – (**v. 21a** – **Hebrews 10:19-25**)

I showed you eight reasons from this passage in Hebrews as to why it is important to be in your place at church. We will all have occasions where we take a vacation or something else comes up that will keep us from church, but we must be careful to not let trivial things keep us away. Jesus was in His place when the church doors were open.

It is an act of worship to honor God with your time by attending church.

2. *Teaching* – (**v. 21b-22** - **1 Timothy 4:11; 13; 16; 2 Timothy 4:1-4**)

We have to teach the principles of God's Word at every opportunity because the time will come when no one will listen. The Book of Amos even prophesies that there will come a time, if God's

people do not honor and cherish and hunger for His Word, He will take it away. Amos calls it a famine for "**hearing the words of the Lord.**"

Jesus gives us the example of worshipping God with our time by teaching His Word at every opportunity.

3. *Releasing Those Who are in Bondage* – (v. 23-28 - **Romans 10:9-17**)

Jesus released this man from the bondage of a demon and gives us the example to do the same, and in so doing also implies that we are to be God's instrument in freeing people from the bondage of sin. The Bible tells us that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. We worship God with our time when we proclaim His message to those who are in bondage.

4. *Healing* – (v. 29-31 - **1 Corinthians 12:27-31**)

We worship God with our time when we pray for others to be healed through the power of Jesus Christ – which we have residing within us. The power to heal is a gift of the Holy Spirit along with all the other gifts outlined in Scripture. We must walk in that power and leave it up to Him as to whether or not He manifests healing power in our lives.

There is another principle at work here though - when Jesus was asked to help, He helped. Jesus didn't tell His disciples that He had just sat down and maybe He could help some other day. He didn't say that He just didn't feel led to help right now. Jesus didn't make any excuses He just helped because He was able to do so.

5. *Fellowship, Relaxation, and Physical Nourishment* – (v. 29-31)

We just recently spent two weeks dealing with the biblical basis for rest and relaxation when I looked at what the Sabbath means to the church today, so I won't belabor that point any more than to say that rest is vitally important to your ability to have relationships with people and to have a relationship and properly worship the Lord. A tired body and mind is of no use to anyone, including God. So let's briefly look at the other two: Fellowship and physical nourishment.

Turn with me in your Bibles to **Acts 2**.

Acts 2:42

This verse is a key for any spirit-led church. The priority and purpose of the church is to glorify and worship God through biblical teaching and preaching (and that comes through the act of teaching as well the act of singing biblically based songs), through fellowship, through the breaking of bread (which refers to the Lord's Supper as well as simply sharing a meal together), and through prayer. If churches today would get these four things down, the rest would come easy.

Jesus shows us the importance of fellowship – the relaxing around the table and sharing a meal kind of fellowship. After church, Jesus enjoyed some fellowship. Grace Church understands this very well. We may not be sitting down at a table, but after church, after the two Bible studies we have, and after our monthly night of praise & prayer, we fellowship the night away and enjoy some food together.

This is good. This is healthy in the life of the church. And you guys are good at it. I'm usually the first one to leave except when it is at my house. I have to turn the lights out to get you to leave on Saturday nights. You enjoy and crave that fellowship. And I truly believe that God is smiling as He watches us grow in love toward one another during these precious times.

Jesus worshipped God with His time by taking time to recharge His mind and body.

6. *Ministering to Strangers* – (v. 32-34)

Can you imagine a whole city coming to your door at sundown; all of them needing to be healed or needing to be released from the bondage of a demon? After Jesus had a time of fellowship, a time of relaxation, and a time of nourishment to recharge His physical body, He got back to ministering to people; ministering to strangers.

Turn with me in your Bibles to **Matthew 25**.

Matthew 25:31-46

This passage primarily deals with the final judgment. It speaks of the choice set before you of taking action and doing something when the opportunity avails itself to you, or letting the opportunity to pass by and doing nothing.

James 4:17, says, “**Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin**” (NKJV).

Hebrews 13:1-3, says, according to Eugene Peterson’s paraphrase of the Bible called The Message, “**Stay on good terms with each other, held together by love. Be ready with a meal or a bed when it’s needed. Why, some have extended hospitality to angels without knowing it! Regard prisoners as if you were in prison with them. Look on victims of abuse as if what happened to them had happened to you.**”

All of these passages are basically saying the same thing; we must allow the allocation of our time to include ministering to strangers. Don’t be so quick to close the door or to send them packing. Don’t shut people off when they strike up a conversation with you. Don’t allow your mind to say this is a colossal waste of time; you can write your symphony some other day.

I am afraid with all of the news headlines and all of the crime shows on television, we have gone too far in our mistrust and apprehension toward those we do not know. Of course there are some dangerous people out there and of course we should be cautious and look for signs of trouble, but if you are following God’s call and you are allowing the Holy Spirit to lead you in your ministry to strangers, do you think God has fallen asleep at His post and will forget to protect you?

Worship God with your time by being willing and open to ministering to strangers.

7. *Sleep* – (**v. 35** – implied)

Our bodies require sleep. Some people have no problem with this, while others act annoyed at the fact that they have to sleep or almost even view it as a sin to waste their time sleeping. Jesus got tired, He would get worn out at times, He would experience exhaustion, and so Jesus would sleep.

Now some take this sleeping thing too far. The Book of Proverbs warns us several times about falling in love with sleep. Don’t sleep just out of sheer laziness, but make sure you get a proper amount of sleep as your body allows.

Turn with in your Bibles to **Proverbs 3**.

Proverbs 3:13-24

Solomon tells us that among the benefits of actively pursuing godly wisdom, sweet sleep is one of them. It implies that worry will not be an issue that will cause you to toss and turn all night. Pursuing godly wisdom, which means reading, studying, meditating upon, memorizing, and putting into action what you learn from God’s Word, will cause your sleep to be sweet. As is the case with some of us, it may not be long, but it will be sweet.

So you can actually worship God with your time of sleep by enjoying what God has given you in this regard. But as we see in the example of Jesus, sometimes we will need to interrupt that time of sleep.

8. *Communion with God* – (v. 35)

Nothing should get in your way of praying and communing with God. If your days are too packed with activity, and even if you have not been obedient in prioritizing your life with a more God-honoring schedule, you still must not allow your time with God to be crowded out. If it means you have rise before the sun and before anyone else in your household does, then you see to it.

Beloved, we cannot miss our time with God. Miss a meal, miss an hour of sleep, miss a soccer game with the kids, miss a television show, or miss anything else that fills your day, but don't miss your time with God.

Your time with God will correct any of the deficiencies in your schedule. Your time with God will prioritize your day. Your time with God will lead you in everything you do. You've probably heard the phrase that you can't out give God; well that phrase applies to everything, not just your money. So if you give your time to God, He will in turn give time to you. You will be able to accomplish more in one hour, if you give one to God, than you could if you kept both hours to yourself.

Psalm 90:12, says, "**Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom**" (NIV).

Honor God and worship God with your time by daily spending a portion of the time He has given you, in communion with Him.

And what is the result of worshipping God with your time?

v. 36-39

God will keep your focus and direct your path. It would have been easy for Jesus to stay in Capernaum and heal everyone that came His way, but physical healing was not His primary purpose. **Verse 38** says he came to preach – and preach is what He did.

Beloved, if you find yourself overwhelmed by the struggle of life, then begin to worship God with your time. If you far too often find yourself frazzled by the hectic pace you have been keeping, then begin to worship God with your time.

Begin by having a daily time of communion with the Lord, and then allow Him to show you all of the worthless activities of your day that are eating up the time you have been given. Relaxation is good, but five hours in front of the TV or computer is not. But that's a topic for another time.

Let's pray.