Time Keeps on Ticking

Text: 1 Chronicles 29:10-15
Supporting Text: Ephesians 5:15-16

Bottom Line:
This three-week series looks at the question, "How does what we believe about eternity affect the here and now?" We will look at three aspects of life affected by this question – time, money and possessions, and what we put our energy toward. Today we focus on time.

Key Idea:
We all live within the confines of limited chronological time (the biblical word is *chronos*). David exemplifies for us how to approach all that we have – including our time – as a gift from God and Paul exhorts us to live our lives redeeming the time. This is a different concept of time called, "Kairos." Our charge is to live our finite lives (*chronos* time) remaining attentive to recognize and respond to the sacred possibilities present within ordinary life (*Kairos* time).

READ

Read **1 Chronicles 29:10-16** aloud.

Take a look at what has led up to this beautiful prayer of David's in verses 1-10 of 1 Chronicles 29. David was so lavish and generous with what he was contributing to the resources for building the temple. We learn that David had a particular mindset and a heart condition.

David's mindset: Everything is a gift from God. That includes our lives, our very breath, our abilities, our possessions, our relationships, and our time. We own nothing, these things aren't truly "ours." Therefore David understood that our purpose isn't to satisfy our own desires but to fulfill God's plan and reflect His glory. David wanted to build the temple himself, but when God said no, he threw himself fully into God's plan.

David's heart condition: His mindset produced genuine gratitude and joy for God's provisions. Our hearts *want* to give generously, as God gives, to celebrate His blessings and give Him the glory.

DISCUSS

1. What is one way in which you can relate to David's mindset in your own life?
2. What is one way in which you express gratitude and joy for God's abundant provisions in your own life?

COME AND SEE

The Bible teaches two different types of time – *chronos* and *kairos*

Chronos is measurable time – minutes, hours, days, etc. Clocks and calendars measure chronos time. It is flat, referring only to space and time, a finite period.

See its use in: **Matthew 2:7; Matthew 26:18; Luke 8:26-27; John 7:33**

Kairos is defined by quality, not quantity. It is a season, a moment ripe with opportunity. It is three-dimensional with meaning infused in it. It is time as a story.

See its use in: **Matthew 11:25-26; Mark 9:21; Mark 1:15; Luke 18:29-30**

Chronos has to do with minutes and *Kairos* has to do with moments.

- There are times in our lives when these two things intersect, like when our first child is born – a chronological event that has a deeper, everlasting meaning…the first time we became a parent. That is the intersection of *chronos* and *Kairos.*

Take a look at this vignette from David's life:

Read **2 Samuel 11:1-5; 14-17; 26-27**

1. What was David supposed to be doing with his time? What did he do instead and what was the result of his misuse of time?

   Now read what happened when the prophet Nathan confronted David about his sin in **2 Samuel 12:7-14**

   The consequences for David's sin were not preventable, and David could not go back in time and redo things. However, God acted in a redemptive way which you can read about in **2 Samuel 12:24.**

2. How is this a vignette of *chronos* instilled with *Kairos?* How is this helpful to us when there are times in our lives that we regret or that we wish we could do over again?

God gifts us with *chronos* and we have the choice to align it with *Kairos.*

Paul teaches us the importance of redeeming our time.

Read Ephesians 5:15-16

1. How would you rephrase this verse in your own words?

2. Why do you suppose Paul chose to call the days "evil?"

Read Colossians 4:5, where Paul uses a similar idea about making the most of an opportunity. In what context is he exhorting us to step into "*kairos*?"

FOLLOW ME

Kairos time and the "if only I could go back in time" moments

We can all name times we wish we could do over. Unfortunately, there is no rewind button and no time machine that can transport us back.

Looking at the story of David and Bathsheba (in 2 Samuel above), how did God approach the sins David committed in *chronos* time?

Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:17 that if we are in Christ we are new creations. This is consistent with the redeeming and renewing work that God is doing in the world through Jesus Christ.

Reflect:
What are some "if only I could go back in time" moments in your life that God has made "new" through *Kairos* time? (Shannon told the story of a time when she disappointed her best friend and her friend didn't talk to her for 13 years. God redeemed that "lost time" and has made their relationship new through their mutual forgiveness.)

Is there a "if only I could go back in time" moment (or more than one) that you are having a hard time letting God redeem and reframe? How can you pray about this and surrender your regrets to God? How might God be inviting you to allow those past moments be a part of a bigger story?

GO AND BE

Redeeming time is not about counting time but making time count.

First – We receive time as a gift. Exercising wisdom in how we use our time means we are not merely filling it up with productive things, but that we are intentional about using it for lasting things. (Disclaimer: not every single moment can be lived this way!)

Below are discerning questions we can use when approaching our time. **Take a little audit of your time by prayerfully reflecting on these questions:**

What does faithfulness look like within the limits of the hours I have today?

Where is God inviting me to be attentive, available, or responsive?

What has God entrusted to me in this season of life?

What might I need to release so that I can be more present to what matters?

Second – Redeeming time involves opening our eyes to how ordinary moments and mundane tasks can become sacred opportunities. Shannon suggested a few ways to do this, listed below:

- Start your day by praying over your calendar/agenda, asking God what he would have you do with your time. asking him to open your eyes to opportunities to live out eternal values – love, peace, grace, forgiveness. Those are the things for which our time counts.

- Practice regular silence, solitude, and Sabbath. Stopping "doing" reminds us that we aren't in control – God is. It gives us space and breathing room to be wise about the use of the gift of time.

- Incorporate moments of sacredness into the day: set an alarm every few hours to pause and pray; use your drive or walk to pray or list what you're grateful for; get out into nature where you can enjoy God's creation.

- Find ways to be fully present with people. Give your children, grandchildren, and close friends moments of your undivided attention. Put the phone away. Make eye contact. Ask questions and listen more than you talk. Affirm the people you love. Pray with them and for them.

How can you be intentional this week about intersecting *chronos* with *Kairos* in the ordinary moments and mundane tasks of the week?

One Question to Carry

In your daily prayers, ask God:

How can I use my time as an opportunity to live for your purposes, not just my own?