



## Monday - NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT

"For man does not know the time. Like a caught fish in a dangerous net, and like a bird caught in a snare, that's how the children of man are entangled in the unfortunate times, if it happens to them all of a sudden." Ecclesiastes 9:12

Procrastinating is a common practice for many people. For example: when we get an assignment from school or office that can be done that day, we don't do it right away, because we think tomorrow is still there. We let time pass in vain. As a result, tasks pile up and overwhelm ourselves.

The Bible warns us not to procrastinate on what we can do now or today. "We must do the work of him who sent me, while it is still day; There will come a night, where no one will can work." (John 9:4). There is a quote saying: "The most valuable currency in the world is time. No one can buy used time." (Anonymous). If to this day we are still given the breath of life, it means an opportunity for us to work, to work and to work hard for God: "In every hard work there is profit," (Proverbs 14:23). The Apostle Paul also affirmed: "... in communion with the Lord your labor is not in vain." (1 Corinthians 15:58); also the opportunity to maximize the talents that God has given; an opportunity to sow goodness. "Let us not be weary of doing good, for when the time comes, we will reap, if we do not become weak." (Galatians 6:9).

Don't wait for the 'right time', but start now! Why? "For man does not know the time." (verse nas). Never say that we don't have time, because basically everyone is given the same time by God, which is 24 hours a day. So there is no reason for us to make excuses! While you're still healthy, while you're still in good shape, while opportunities are still open to you, do it...

**Read: Ecclesiastes 9:1-2**

## Tuesday - GOD WHO GUIDES

"Who is the one who fears the Lord? To him the LORD showed him the way he should choose." Psalm 25:12

A person can make the right life choices as he grows spiritually mature. The level of spiritual maturity has nothing to do with age, social level or how long it takes to be a Christian, but it is about growing faith in God and how to apply the teachings of the Word to real life. A person is said to be a spiritual adult if he has a trained senses, so that he can distinguish good from evil (see Hebrews 5:14). In other words, a spiritually mature person is a person who fears God; and to those who fear Him, the Lord will show him the way he must choose.

The Apostle Paul prayed for the church in Philippi: "And this is my prayer, that your love may abound in true knowledge and in all understandings, that ye may choose what is good, that ye may be holy and blameless before the day of Christ" (Philippians 1:9-10). To have a heart that fears God we must grow in love and have a true knowledge of God. So love and knowledge are two things that complement each other and are inseparable. As we grow in love and a true knowledge of God, we gain the strength to make the right life choices. When we choose to worship God, it means that we come to church not just as a mere routine, but are willing to dedicate our entire existence to God. "... that you may offer your body as a living offering, which holy and pleasing to God: it is your true worship." (Romans 12:1).

True worship speaks of our obedience, faithfulness and devotion to God. We surrender completely to God and trust in every one of His plans. This is what drives us to obey His word and follow His ways, because we know that God's way is the best for us.

**Read: Psalm 25:1-22**

## Wednesday - ABIGAIL: The Woman of the Dream (1)

"And she was a woman of good understanding and beautiful appearance; but the man was harsh and evil in his doings." 1 Samuel 25:3b

The Bible records that Abigail was a beautiful and wise woman, but unfortunately her husband (Nabal) behaved rudely, wickedly and miserly, even though she "... having a company in Carmel... have three thousand sheep and a thousand goats." (paragraph 2). The meaning of Abigail is the source of happiness, while the meaning of Nabal is ignorance. Judging from the lineage, Nabal was a descendant of Caleb, but his behavior did not reflect a person who knew God at all.

At that time David was on the run because he was being chased by Saul who wanted to kill him. In this difficult situation, of course, David and his people must need food assistance and so on. He heard that Nabal was shearing his sheep. According to tradition in Israel, the time of shearing sheep is the perfect time to welcome guests. Therefore, David also sent 10 of his men to meet Nabal in the hope of getting help, especially since David and his troops had helped Nabal's employees guard Nabal's herd, so that none of his cattle were lost to criminals or pounced on by wild animals. "They are like a fence around us day and night, as long as we herd sheep near them." (1 Samuel 25:16). But how did Nabal respond? He said, "Who is David, and who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants nowadays who break away each one from his master. 11 Shall I then take my bread and my water and my meat that I have killed for my shearers, and give it to men when I do not know where they are from?" (1 Samuel 25:10-11). This arrogant attitude of Nabal provoked David's anger, so he sent 400 men to meet Nabal and intend to kill him.

But Abigail, who knew the purpose of the envoy's visit, prepared food and wine to be sent ahead of the envoys and immediately met David (1 Samuel 25:18-19).

**Read: 1 Samuel 25:2-22**

## Thursday - ABIGAIL: The Woman of the Dream (2)

"Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me! And blessed is your advice and blessed are you, because you have kept me this day from coming to bloodshed and from avenging myself with my own hand." 1 Samuel 25:32-33

When there was enmity between David and her wicked and miserly husband, Abigail appeared to be both a mediator and a worthy helper for her husband. Humbly he asked David for forgiveness: "He fell at David's feet and said, 'I alone, O my lord, bear the blame. Let this servant of yours speak unto you, and Listen to the words of this servant of yours.'" (verse 24).

Abigail reminded David not to stain his hands with the blood of a wicked person like Nabal. Although her husband was abusive and evil, Abigail did not ask God to punish her, or use the 'chance' technique with David's anger, but still showed the attitude of being a good wife and loving her husband no matter what her circumstances, by asking for her husband's salvation. Nabal is a very lucky man because he has a beautiful wife inside

and out. "... a wise wife is a gift of the Lord." (Proverbs 19:14). As the name implies, Abigail's existence really brings happiness to the Nabal family.

What Abigail did was also a rebuke and warning for David so that he would not be easily hot or angry with those who did evil. Because of this experience David wrote: "Do not be angry because of the one who does evil, do not envy the one who deceives; ... Stop being angry and let go of that heartache, don't be angry, it only leads to evil." (Psalm 37:1, 8). The Bible advises: "Do not conquer evil, but conquer evil with good!" (Romans 12:21), for "Vengeance is mine. I will repay" says the Lord." (Romans 12:19). Evidently, Nabal had to reap the consequences of his pride and wickedness: "And about ten days after that the Lord struck Nabal, that he died" (1 Samuel 25:38).

**Read : 1 Samuel 25:23-44**

### **Friday - BECOMING BIG: Everyone's Dream**

"If a man wants to be the first, let him be the last of all and the servant of all." Mark 9:35

Capernaum is one of the important cities that are familiar to the ministry of the Lord Jesus. The Lord Jesus did many things in the city: healing the servant of an officer, healing a paralyzed man who was lowered from the roof, teaching and also calling disciples and so on. Therefore, the Bible refers to Capernaum as His own city (see Matthew 9:1).

Ironically, despite the many miracles performed by the Lord Jesus in Capernaum, few people would believe in Him. In that city, too, when gathering with His disciples, the Lord Jesus heard their debate about who among them was worthy of being the "greatest" disciple of God. Honestly, no one wants to be the 'smallest' person, looked down on or belittled by their peers. On the contrary, everyone has a desire or desire to be the greatest. It's no secret that humans often measure a person's 'greatness' based on what they see with the naked eye: having many titles, ranks and having abundant wealth. Therefore, the world views that the greatest person is the person who is always served and called the boss, while the person who serves is a small person or subordinate. But what does it mean that we are the greatest before man, but our existence is the smallest, aka not considered by God?

To be the greatest, the Lord Jesus has a different pattern, which is to serve, not to be served, just as He came into the world not to be served but to serve (see Matthew 20:28). A servant of God who not only cares about the rich but also wants to 'come down' to serve the poor is categorized as the greatest person in the eyes of God. Unfortunately, in this day and age, there are still God's servants who are picky about places when serving, there are even those who put up tag (fare) and ask for facilities that are all 'wow' when invited to preach, not much different from world celebrities.

**Read: Mark 9:33-37**

### **Saturday - LORD JESUS: Come to Serve**

"Then Jesus took a little child and placed him in the midst of them, and He embraced the child..." Mark 9:36

The greatness of a person's life according to the Lord Jesus is when he shows an attitude of loving and serving the little people who are despised by his fellow man. But what happens in this day and age is that people who are seen as 'big' by the world are actually arbitrary towards small people.

The Lord Jesus' act of taking a child, placing him in the midst of His disciples and embracing him (verse nas) is a picture of how He even appreciates and cares for the child. Therefore, a leader who is willing to pay attention to and defend the rights of the small people is a great person in the eyes of God. Generally, when a person becomes a leader or is already at the 'top', they tend to forget themselves and then use the "chance" technique by abusing their authority and power to oppress the small people: "... The governments of the nations rule their people with their hands iron and the rulers exercise their power violently over them." (Matthew 20:25). The Lord Jesus' willingness to serve the small (poor), unseen, lowly and despicable people actually makes Him even more glorified by the Father in heaven. "That is why God exalted him so much and gave unto him a name above every name," (Philippians 2:9).

If the Lord Jesus alone is willing to serve those who are despised by men, it is inappropriate for us to have a contrary attitude, for "Whoever says that he is in him must live as Christ lived" (1 John 2:6). As believers we are messengers of Christ. Messenger means to reflect or represent the sender. The Lord Jesus is the Father's messenger; Because the Father is love, He also shows His love through real attitudes and actions. Likewise, the Lord Jesus sent us to minister to souls and bring them the message of salvation. But if our lives do not reflect the living Christ, are we worthy of being called messengers of Christ?

**Read: Mark 9:33-37**

### **Sunday - SLAVE DUTY: Obedience to the Master (1)**

"Servants, obey your master who is in this world in all things, not just in front of them to please them, but sincerely for the fear of the Lord." Colossians 3:22

The definition of a servant is a servant or a slave, doulos (Greek) and ebed (Hebrew), meaning a person who is in the status of a servant or slave. The main duty of a servant is to do the work according to the will of his master, a person who has an attitude of complete submission to be governed by the master; A servant is no longer entitled to his personal will but becomes the full property of his master.

The Apostle Paul wrote this letter not with the intention of supporting the slave system, but rather to advise the servants, workers, laborers or employees how they should behave in the world of work. A servant, employee, worker or laborer is obliged to do the duties entrusted to him as best as possible and with full responsibility by obeying the existing regulations. It is common to find many Christians who cannot bear a good witness in their workplace because their performance is far below average: they do not obey the applicable rules, they are lazy, they like to skip school for no apparent reason. "O servants, obey your master who is in this world in all things...". The word obedience is intended to give oneself to submit as an attitude of respect from the bottom of the heart, not a pretense or limited to pleasing the leader or boss, because there are many workers who pretend to work hard when there is a leader. Once the leadership is not in place, they change so quickly.

The Bible teaches us to obey with a sincere heart based on the fear of God, not the fear of man. Others may not know what we are doing, but "... there is no creature hidden before Him, for all something naked and open before His eyes, to whom we must provide accountability." (Hebrews 4:13), even "... The LORD searches every heart and understands all intents and aspirations." (1 Chronicles 28:9). **Read : Colossians 3:22-25**

The Daily Devotional will feed your faith in being led by the Spirit, confessing God's Word, growing up spiritually, receiving healing, and many other areas.  
God Bless You!