

Don't Waste Your Life

Message 03 of 03 in the series: "Next is Now!"

A. Wasting our time is the biggest way we waste our lives.

"Be very careful, then, how you live - not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is." Ephesians 5:15-17 (NIV)

B. How do we waste our time?

1. Not seeing the big picture

Life Application: Don't let the next thing or the last thing rob you of the big thing God wants to do in your life.

2. Good distractions

3. Selfish ambition

"For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will. And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day. For it is my Father's will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day." John 6:38-40 (NLT)

4. Buying the lie that we don't have enough time

"The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands." Psalm 138:8 (ESV)

5. Distancing ourselves from Jesus

"Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'" Matthew 7:21-23 (NLT)

6. Settling for small purpose

Life Application: Use wisely the set time on earth for the one thing that matters most, to know Jesus and to make him known.

C. Living with purpose is the biggest way we redeem our lives.

1. Decide now what you want your legacy to be.

2. Purpose will always focus on building others up.

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."
1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)

Life Application: Your obedience is someone else's miracle.

3. Prioritize your relationship with Christ.

Life Application: We're following a person, not an organization.

Connect Group Questions:

1. Of the 6 time wasting statements, which do you identify with the most and why? What can you do this week to improve in that area? What's one practical step you can take to make the most of every opportunity?
2. Read John 6:38-40 together. Why do you think Jesus was able to accomplish so much ministry in only 3 years?
3. Are the people in your life "on-purpose" people?
4. What do you want your legacy to be?
5. Discuss the quote "Your obedience is someone else's miracle." What are some possible opportunities that God may be leading you towards to make that a reality?
6. How do you need to prioritize your relationship with Christ? What practical step will you take this week to make that happen?
7. If you are older than the Generation Z/Millennial group at Centerpoint, how can you or your group be intentional in building them up? What wisdom would you share with them?
8. If you are in the Generation Z/Millennial group at Centerpoint, how can you or your group be intentional in building the older generation up? What wisdom would you share with them?