

Commit Your Time to Building Relationships with Non-Believers

As Christians, we understand that all the earth contains, all we have, it belongs to God. That includes all our earthly possessions - our financial resources, our gifts, our talents, and... our time. To be good stewards of all the Lord has given us, we need to continually consider how we utilize those blessings.

There was a point in my life when I was homeless and unemployed. Yet, I was also filled with hope. I knew that God's good and perfect will included a plan for me to prosper. While that was a challenging time, in hindsight, I see how that situation provided God's gifts for others through me. As I sought work and did odd jobs to earn money, the Lord provided an opportunity for me to comfort and disciple others. A ministry was born.

I clearly heard His voice telling me to tithe my time and save for "our" future. A verse that spoke to me then, and still does today, is when Jesus states: "As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work." (John 9:4) Jesus knew his life on earth would soon end when he healed the blind man. He also knew that healing the man would cause more issues for him, but he didn't let that stop him! He felt that as long as he was in a human body, he needed to do the works of his Father. It was more important than his own comfort, or that of those whom he loved. Since we are created in God's image and "Those who claim to belong to him must live just as Jesus did" (1 John 2:6), isn't it good stewardship and wise to commit ourselves to take the time to build relationship with others who aren't believers?

We are fishers of men! Disciples being used by Jesus to grow the Kingdom of God. What a great honor this is that has been bestowed upon us! Rather than spending our extra time working more to prove to men that we are worthy, or on self-indulgent non-productive activities, shouldn't we be consciously stewarding a sizable portion of our time introducing those who don't know Christ to the One who will never leave nor forsake them?

The blessing is twofold. When you partake in someone's life transformation you bless them, but you also receive a blessing yourself as you witness their salvation and growth. Plant seeds. Water them. Watch them grow. Making the commitment to take time to build relationships with non-believers is fruitful. As His Word states: "Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed. In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps." (Proverbs 16:3,9) Start walking in Jesus' footsteps today!