



## Living A Generous Life Be Generous With Your Time

Throughout this series, we have learned from God's Word that we are stewards of what God owns. We have learned we are stewards of...

1. Our spirit, soul, and body
2. Our money and possessions  
Tom did a great job with this last week.
3. Our authority
4. Our time

When Adam and Eve sinned, God's judgment was physical and spiritual death.

Genesis 2:15-17

15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;

17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

NKJV

God graciously gave them the gift of time before they would die physically. Time was not a right. They deserved death. Every second God extended their life was the result of God's mercy and grace.

God did not keep them alive so He could fulfill their physical appetites and personal ambitions or so they could squander their lives on meaningless pursuits. God kept them alive so He could glorify Himself and accomplish His redemptive purpose through their lives for mankind on the earth.

Isaiah 48:9-11

9 "For My name's sake I will defer My anger, and for My praise I will restrain it from you, so that I do not cut you off.

10 Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.

11 For My own sake, for My own sake, I will do it; For how should My name be profaned? And I will not give My glory to another.

NKJV

Adam and Eve and all their descendants were stewards of the time that God was giving them. God's intention for them was that they use their time for His glory!

What happened to Adam and Eve has happened to you. You have sinned. You deserve death. You don't have a right to life before a righteous God. God has not kept you alive so

He could fulfill your physical appetites and personal ambitions or so you can squander your life on meaningless pursuits. God has given you time so you can glorify Him and accomplish His redemptive purpose through your life for mankind on the earth. You are a steward of the time that God has given you. God's intention for you is that you use your time for His glory!

The way you live for God's glory and accomplish God's redemptive purpose through your life for mankind is follow Jesus and become a fisher of men for Him.

[Matthew 4:19](#)

[19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."](#)

[NKJV](#)

Jesus called this mission going and making disciples.

[Matthew 28:18-20](#)

[18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.](#)

[19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,](#)

[20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.](#)

[NKJV](#)

To make disciples you must be generous with your time with those you disciple.

[Luke 6:12-13](#)

[12 Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.](#)

[13 And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles:](#)

[NKJV](#)

Jesus chose these 12 men to be with Him. He ministered to the multitudes, but Jesus was most generous with His time with his 12 disciples. He was always traveling with them. He was always checking on these 12 men. He was always retreating with them. They were His priority.

[To follow Jesus and be a good steward of my time I must be generous with my time to those that I am called to disciple!](#)

Now, I don't have as much time to give to those I disciple on a daily or weekly basis as Jesus did. I am married. Jesus was not. I have 12 children now and 4 grandchildren. Jesus had none. I have a job like many of you that requires me to work 40 or more hours a week. Jesus did not. The people I disciple all have responsibilities that the disciples of Jesus did not have. They were able to leave every responsibility behind and just follow Him around. Those I disciple can't do that with me. God does not expect that from me, and I would dare say He is probably not calling you to do that.

You add to these differences the fact that Jesus knew He was going to die at age 33 and that He only had 3- and one-half years to disciple these 12 men.

Having a community of disciples that Jesus lived with made the most sense for Him to accomplish His mission with His disciples!

I cannot give the same amount of time to those I disciple that Jesus gave, and God does not expect me to. But God does expect me to be very generous with my time with those I disciple.

So, what does it look like for me be generous with my time with those I disciple?  
What does a budget for your money look like?

The Wells 2007 Weekly Budget

<u>Weekly Income</u>	<u>000</u>	
Giving to Church	000	
Giving to other ministries and the poor	000	
Government Tax	000	
Loan for medical	000	
Home Expenses (utilities, home insurance, and property tax)	000	
Educational materials for children	000	
Cars (Insurance and repairs)		000
Gas for cars	000	
Medical	000	
Food	000	
Gifts to family	000	
Misc. (Clothing, home improvements, travel, dining out)		000
<u>Total of Expenses</u>	<u>000</u>	
Balance after expenses		000

Just like I will never be a good steward of money and live a generous life with money without having a financial budget, I will not be a good steward of my time and live a generous life with time with those I disciple, unless I budget my time!

Jerry Well  
 WEEK OF September 1 - September 8

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
12:00 A.M.	Sleep						
1:00 A.M.	Sleep						
2:00 A.M.	Sleep						
3:00 A.M.	Sleep						
4:00 A.M.	Sleep						
5:00 A.M.	Sleep						
6:00 A.M.	Sleep						
7:00 A.M.	Sleep						
8:00 A.M.	Sleep						
9:00 A.M.	Sleep						
10:00 A.M.	Sleep						
11:00 A.M.	Sleep						
12:00 P.M.	Sleep						
1:00 P.M.	Sleep						
2:00 P.M.	Sleep						
3:00 P.M.	Sleep						
4:00 P.M.	Sleep						
5:00 P.M.	Sleep						
6:00 P.M.	Sleep						
7:00 P.M.	Sleep						
8:00 P.M.	Sleep						
9:00 P.M.	Sleep						
10:00 P.M.	Sleep						
11:00 P.M.	Sleep						
12:00 A.M.	Sleep						

When I attended OBU as a student, I was disciplined by Bob Burgess for three years. Now Bob served in the Marines.

One of the exercises Bob had me do every new school year was fill out a time sheet for him that had each day of the week on it and every hour of each day.

One of the reasons that Bob had me do this exercise was that he wanted me to learn the importance of budgeting my time. He understood the truth that...  
 If you fail to plan, you plan to fail!

Bob also wanted me to be aware of how I was using my time. One of the most common excuses that people can make for not doing those things that are most important to God is, "I am too busy."

I thought I was busy as a single college student. I was busier than most because I was going to college on an athletic scholarship and I played two sports. Playing two sports, practice began at the beginning of the fall semester each year and ended right before school was out in May.

What I discovered the first year I wrote out a budget for my time was this.  
 168 hours in a week

- 16 hours in class
- 16 hours studying
- 23 hours in gym
- 21 hours eating
- 51 hours of sleep
- 12.5 hours in discipleship
- 28.5 hours of free time
- 168 hours

I was not as busy as I thought I was. That exercise was the beginning of me learning how to be a good steward with my time so I could be generous with my time with those I disciplined.

I also learned from Bob that to disciple someone, I needed to give them more than one hour a week for bible study.

He brought it to my attention that Jesus shared life on life with His disciples. Bob followed the example of Jesus and made time to share life on life with me.



Bob had a full-time job. Bob was married and had two children. So how did he do it?

He invited me to his home for meals. He invited me to stay in his home over holidays when I had to stay on campus for baseball or basketball practice. He invited me to events with His family. His office door was almost always open if I needed to drop by and talk about what was going on in my life. He came to my basketball and baseball games. He loved me by being generous with his time. He was like Jesus. I will forever be in debt to him.

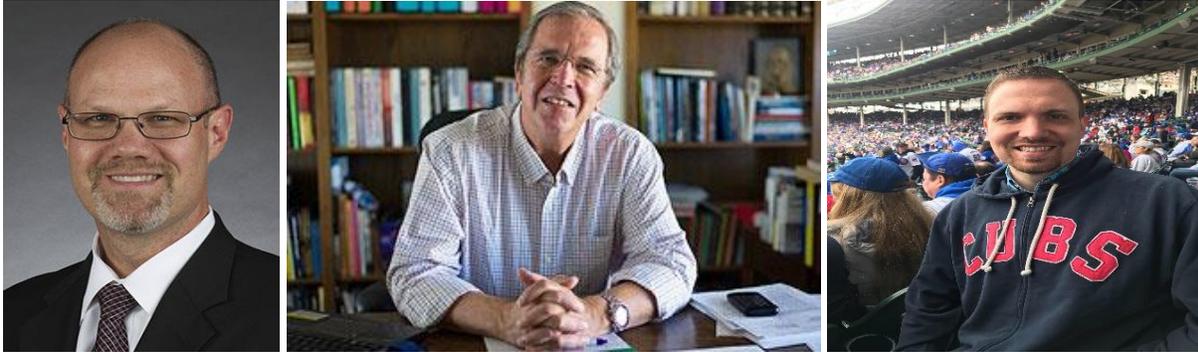
After I left OBU, Bob continued to live a generous life with His time those he disciplined. He eventually left OBU and became a Pastor. While he was a Pastor, he lived a generous life with His time with those he disciplined. Bob then left the full-time ministry as a vocation and became an insurance agent. Bob continued to live a generous life with those He disciplined.

All I am trying is what Bob did with me and Jesus did with His disciples. My goal is to live a generous life with my time with those I disciple.

It does not look the same with every person I disciple. That's OK. It did not look the same with Jesus. He chose 12, but there were 3 of those 12 guys that He treated differently.

There are some people I disciple that I meet with once a week in our small group. I communicate with them as needed by phone, by text, or by email. Our small group has a meal and communion together once a month. Right now, I get together with Doug Miller and Rob Ruckel for a meal every week. Doug and I have been doing this for several years. Rob started joining us last year.

There are always a few people that I disciple that I spend a lot of time with every week one to one. Right now, that is Thomas Hill, Dan Woska, and Brandon Werner. On almost a daily basis, I communicate with them in some form.



I don't think it is an accident that these three men that I have been the most generous with my time with over the last few years are now doing what I have done with them with over 30 people.

I don't think it is an accident that Doug is serving in our bible club at SFS discipling 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys.



Most of us know these guys and the difference their lives have made and are making. They were men that I did with them what Jesus did with his disciples and Bob did with me.

[To live a generous life, I must be generous with my time with those that I disciple!](#)

The life span God first gave man is incredible to us. Before the flood, it was not unusual for men to live to over 900 years. Noah died 350 years after the flood, at the age of 950, the last of the extremely long-lived early Patriarchs. The maximum human lifespan, as depicted by the Bible, diminishes thereafter, from almost 1,000 years to the 175 years lived by Abraham. Moses died at age 120. 14 generations after Abraham, King David died at age 70.

The current average life span in the USA is over 78. As of 2015, the country with the highest life expectancy is Monaco at 89.52 years; the country with the lowest is Chad at 49.81 years.

Time is a gift from God that none of us deserves. No matter how much time God gives us, God says time is like a breath that quickly disappears or a beautiful flower that quickly fades.

Knowing the brevity of life, Paul challenged the church at Ephesus with these words.

[Ephesians 5:15-16](#)

[15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,](#)

[16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.](#)

[NKJV](#)

Redeeming the time means to rescue your time from loss.

You have sinned. You deserve death. You don't have a right to life before a righteous God. God has not kept you alive so He could fulfill your physical appetites and personal ambitions or so you can squander your life on meaningless pursuits. God has given you time so you can glorify Him and accomplish His redemptive purpose through your life for mankind on the earth. You are a steward of the time that God has given you.

Will you surrender to God's redemptive purpose through your life?

Will you receive Jesus as your savior and Lord?

Will you follow Jesus and become a fisher of men for Him? Will you make disciples?

Will you live a generous life by being generous with your time with those you disciple?