

Divine Appointments

by Otto Koning

The sermon emphasizes the importance of being present in the moment and taking advantage of divine appointments, rather than getting distracted by material possessions or saving time.

Duration: 39:46

Scripture: Exodus 20:17, Matthew 6:33, Acts 8:26, 1 Timothy 2:4

Topics: "Christian Life"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker discusses the concept of time and how people often prioritize worldly possessions over spiritual matters. He mentions how window shopping and constantly desiring new things can lead to discontentment. The speaker also emphasizes the importance of using time wisely for ministry and spiritual growth, rather than being consumed by material possessions. He shares personal examples of how he and others have been distracted by worldly things, and encourages listeners to focus on laying up treasures in heaven rather than on earth. The speaker references Matthew 6 and the parable of the harvest to illustrate the concept of kairos, the specific moment in history when God sent his son to redeem humanity.

Transcript

You've all heard the story of the Jesus talking to the Samaritan woman, and it's said there in John 4, 4, he must needs go through Samaria. Now, the Jews didn't have a dealing with Samaritans, and they wouldn't go through there, they'd cross Jordan and go up that way, but Jesus said, I must needs go through there. Not because there wasn't another way, but because there was a divine appointment that he had to make.

And you remember how the Samaritans believed the people there, and how they turned to the Lord, and how that whole area was evangelized. And amazing, in the book of Acts, chapter 8, we have Philip the Evangelist, and this was maybe about three years later, in the very same area at Sychar, having this great revival there, remember that? And that was when the Holy Spirit told them to go to the desert, to the road that leads to Gaza, and remember, and all of a sudden there, he meets this Ethiopian eunuch, and you remember the divine appointment there again, just like Jesus had to go through Samaria to reach that woman, it's not referring to another way, so Philip had to go to a desert. Can you imagine a successful evangelistic meetings, many turning to the Lord, and he says, go to the desert, and there he meets that one Ethiopian eunuch, and who became a believer, and was baptized, and then went on to Ethiopia with the gospel.

Divine appointments. There are two words in the Bible for time. One is chronos, and that's the everyday word for time.

It's like in the story of Herod, when he asked the wise men, what time did the star appear? And that's the same thing as our daily, everyday time, hours, and minutes that we're concerned about. It's the chronos, Greek word, we get the word chronological, chronomatic on your watch, and so on. Chronos time.

But by far, the more important word in the New Testament is kairos, and those are the appointments, the divine appointments. When the book of Esther was translated into Greek for them, that word time there was translated kairos. That's when Mordecai, her uncle, said, for a time, for this time, for a time as this, you've been brought into the kingdom in order that she might save all the Jews in the empire there.

And for that specific moment, that divine moment, the fullness of time. In Galatians, it says, when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his son. That specific moment in history, not too early, not too late, when God sent his son to earth here to redeem us.

And then it's used again in the parable of the harvest, you know, the time of the harvest. Now, you can't harvest too soon, the grain isn't ripe, you can't wait too long, or it spoils. The specific time of harvest is a certain moment.

And so, that's the word kairos. Now, let me illustrate this. A missionary was walking to the city, to the marketplace, every Saturday morning to get his supplies.

He would take all day walking to the city, or to the town, and back to his mission station, the whole day of the week to get supplies. But as he walked, the nationals walked with him. The natives loaded down with produce from their gardens to sell at the marketplace.

And as they walked together each Saturday, what was he doing? He was teaching them. He was, just like Jesus did, when he walked along the roads, right? As they were traveling, most of the teaching Jesus did was in travel. So, he never wasted time traveling, walking on foot.

And so, this missionary would teach his people as they walked along the dusty road every Saturday, probably getting more done than on Sunday. But then the church in America, and the church in America may be all too rich a church, right? Bottom of Jeep. And now he could save time.

Now, what kind of time was he saving? You see, he cruises on by, leaves him in a cloud of dust. All the people that used to walk with him are angry at him because he didn't give him a ride. Well, he couldn't give them all a ride.

They'd sit on his doorstep the night before, all night, so that they could get to ride on the Jeep with their produce and beat the other guys to it. They were jealous of each other. They were fighting amongst each other who got the ride.

They were mad at the missionary. He had the Jeep so when he'd have to stop, they'd all pile on. He gets in trouble with the authorities for overloading too many people in his Jeep.

And he's got all kinds, and everybody's angry at him. But he's saving time, right? But he's losing appointments, right? Losing that divine appointment when he could be teaching these people. And he's turning the people off because of his Jeep.

And I did the same thing. Oh, I'm ashamed now to say we had this while we built their strips in the jungle of New Guinea. And the men wanted to work and earn some things.

And so when the strips were done, then we started making paths through the swamp, piling up the mud, and so on. So when we got some paths through the next village and a couple more places, or at least partway in other directions, what did I do? Hey, I could really save time with a small motorcycle, a little trail bike. I had a little Honda, a 90cc trail bike.

And now I could ride those paths and save time, you know? And I get to the other paths, to the end of the path, and then I'd have to park it there and walk and go to the villages, to the evangelized. But it was nice to come back, and you know that at a certain point, then you can ride home. You don't have to walk the rest of the way.

But that motorcycle became like the missionary's Jeep. The people all wanted rides. Oh, I turned them off.

They'd never invented the wheel yet. And so they all wanted rides, and the kids there would hang on to the back and run. I couldn't go all that fast on those trails.

And they'd hang off and throw me off balance, and I'd shout at them, get out here and leave me alone. And they'd hang on, and all of them running behind me all the time. And then they tried to get that thing started.

They wanted to know what made it tick. Well, I thought, oh man. And so I disguised this key, you know, that had it started.

And so they'd see me get on the bike, and they're trying to see what I do. So I touched the knob on the front wheel, and pat the gas tank, and hit the light, and the back thing, and hit the clutch lever, and the lever. And I said, hey, look at that bird.

And I turned the key. And now they caught on after a while that, you know, when he says, look at a bird, or look at something, watch his hands. So from now on, some of them, and so they find out that it was that key.

They'd say, let me see that thing. They'd study that key. I had to watch that thing.

And you know what they did? They carved wooden keys just like it. They took a mental picture of it, and they put that in there, broke it off. And I'm saving all kinds of time.

You better believe it. I'm sitting there with a hot needle in a fire, heating that needle to burn that out of that thing. Can you believe it? Frustrated, these dumb guys, you know, wooden keys.

One time, I had left a key in it. Oh, I don't know, just forgot it. And they found that motorcycle there, and in the jungle, on that path, way in the middle of the jungle, with the key in it.

And they got that thing turned, and they found out the light came on. Whoa, they're always looking for flashlights. They go hunting, you know, they need the flashlights at night.

And they can't, you know what they did? They tied that motorcycle on a long post, had a guy's front and back, and carried it through the swamps with this big flashlight, burning all day. Can you imagine it? Of course, after long enough, that thing runs out of light. And I'm stuck with a dead battery.

You know, that thing won't start with a dead battery. So I'm saving time when I got back. But I'm glad they brought it back to the path.

Suppose they'd left it in the middle of the swamp after the flashlight went off, you know what I mean? What would I have done? But I got back, and this thing was not starting. And I thought, oh brother, and I'm frustrated. And some guys with me, I said, look, you push this thing home, okay? And I'll pay you when you get there.

And I said, now don't touch anything. Don't mess with it, you know. When they got home hours later, it took them forever.

I thought, what is happening? They had the thing in gear, folks. And the thing, the back wheel wouldn't turn. He says, two on that back leg won't walk.

Oh, on the flat, there's a flat spot on my tire. They dragged it all the way home. Oh brother, now how am I going to get a battery charged back in the jungle? How am I going to get a tire? I can't even change that.

Oh, saving time. You better believe it. You know, we get ourselves in trouble with some of the things we have.

And oh, they did all, they loved the sound of hearing the air come out of the tire. Well, it reminded them of the hissing of a snake or something. I don't know.

And I'm sitting there with flat tires. And oh, I said, tie it on the beam, carry it home. You know, they're creating jobs.

They get paid, you know what I mean? And they did the same thing with my boat. I had this little boat and they'd go to some war or some whatever activities and paddle all their canoes. And the last one's no more canoes left.

You see, they bore each other's canoes. And so the last one paddles my boat out somewhere. Now, when they come back from the feast, they don't paddle my boat back.

They come in the canoes. It's too hard to battle that old boat. And so I'd come to the river for go to an evangelistic trip somewhere and no boat.

Where is my boat, you guys? Well, I saw it way over on the other river. I'll go and get it for you. Pay me.

Hey, I'm fighting. I'm going to lock. We drove up post deep into the bank there.

And I had this piece of chain. I don't know where I got it. Had a piece of chain.

I had a lock, man. And I locked that boat. But again, the broken keys in that lock.

And I'd have to send home to my wife. Sent the hacks on. I'm cutting my locks off my own boat and to go saving time.

You better believe it. And I got a combination lock. I thought this victim, you know, no key, no keyhole, man.

But, you know, those people have so much time. They take turns, you know, take turns sleeping. And they'll sit there.

You know what? Eventually, finally, it was a tiniest click, which some guy discovered. And he turns the other way because he told me I'd be turning that thing every which way, you know, try to get them all confused. And they'd get it open every time.

Oh, man. So I got me a bolt, a couple of washers and a big, heavy bolt and a nut. And I carried two wrenches, a crescent wrench and another wrench to the river.

And I tighten that thing down so tight I could hardly get it open myself. And you know what I saw? Broken wooden wrenches. I mean, just like they never got it open, but I could hardly get it open.

I'm supposed to be saving time with this thing we had. Oh, we get all kinds of gadgets. Do you get gadgets? You have stuff that's not good for you neither.

That's you know, because I I have too much to fix. Right. I'm trying to get the motorcycle going when I should be having divine appointments.

You know what I mean? Like to get you see what's happening. And I take too much time just living. And what I'm so I had this Kohler generator.

Oh, no, I can have electric lights. Isn't that night at least three hours a night while the generators go on? And I go to another village. My wife has to turn off the thing when it's dark.

That thing is back there by the chicken pen. That's where the snakes are. They get to they're always attracted by the chicken pen.

So there's where the Kohler generators is near there. And she hates to go out there and turn that thing off at nine o'clock at night. Sometimes she pumps those old lamps just so she wouldn't have.

She says, finally, I rigged up. I mean, this took some doing. I rigged up a fish line all the way from the house to the shed back there and rigged it up on that on that machine where she could if she pulled that fish line with a big handle on it all the way across the room and take up all the slack, she could cut it off.

Oh, was she delighted. She was thrilled. But what we soon found out that fish line didn't last long.

Soon as I was out of village, that fish line be stolen and she'd be out there without a fish line. Hey, all these gadgets, you know, you're saving time and trouble. Oh, you get angry at the people for stealing, stealing your stuff.

And and I'm going through this all the time. I had they would we had the drums at the river, the gasoline for the motors and the kerosene for our lamps in our stove. And we had a kerosene refrigerator now.

So these drums at the river, we can't bring them through the swamp in. So we have to carry it through in jerry cans. But they stole the lead.

You know, those fifty five gallon drum had those lead tops on them. And, you know, you get your pliers in there and big screwdriver and you wedge that thing out. Well, they could do that, too.

They could get a couple of sticks, put a lever in there and just twist that thing off. No, they'd use that lead. They'd they'd they'd use it as sinkers for the fish line.

Can you imagine them getting that hot enough for it? But it used to make that lead into sinker. And so my drums are sitting out there without lids on them. Can you imagine now everybody's helping themselves? They watched us get it out.

So there they got these nice little lamps. They'd never had lamps to get my peanut butter jars or tin cans and put a piece of cloth in there. And and they'd get this little kerosene lamp in their house.

Oh, they were delighted, man. They thought they were really something. Well, we ran out of gasoline and and the MEF got us this hundred octane airplane fuel.

And so there was a drum of that out there. Now, they didn't know which drum was which. So they stole the wrong stuff, put it in their peanut butter jars.

And you can imagine those things would go sky high. That's why they. Oh, brother, they burned their houses down and some of the kids got burned and they're angry with me.

They said to on you put the wrong stuff in that to on what you got in those drums. You're you're causing all the trouble around here. I said, leave it alone.

Don't touch it. And they said, oh, man, too. And you've got to tell us there's Minyak with big bite and there's Minyak with little bite.

I said, yes, leave them both alone. And they said to him, they said, if you don't tell us, then you're going to be the cause of our children getting burned and so on. And and so finally, I did tell him, if you're going to steal, steal that one there.

You know what I mean? Kerosene was cheaper. So I told him that anyway. But anyway, what a mess.

One time this Kohler generator, this these guys always fiddle with and mess with and I try to get them out of there and I couldn't lock everything up. And this one guy was notorious. He was always missing.

I got tired. I told him, get out of that generator shack. One day I was in there.

He came by and I was in there messing with it and trying to get it going. And I said, help me, help me. And I said, you hold on here and I'll try to pull to get this started.

And I had him hold that spark plug. And I started that thing. Man, he got one.

Well, they didn't know what a shock was. He said, oh, he got this thing. He says it bit me all the way up my arm into my neck.

He says, oh, man, he's just doing on my arm going to be all right. Well, he never messed with it again. I said, tell everybody, tell everybody the thing bites.

Well, I should have. I should have. I should have told him the same thing about the motorcycle, I guess.

I don't know. But, oh, brother, all these things, you know, there was a I was in Birmingham, Alabama, and there was a man there, an old man and his wife. And I stayed in his house when I preached in that church.

And he had he used to he's got started with all these treasures in his house because he was an antique dealer. He had chess sets from China, marble carved inlaid table. He had treasures, plates on the walls.

He had collections. This house was loaded with treasure. The guy's 80 years old and and he's worried about he's got bars on the windows.

He's got three two German three dogs, two German shepherds. And I if I got in too late from the from the meeting, man, I could hardly get into this place because he had so many locks on the doors and he had these dogs. But I told him I'd be I'd call him.

I said, I'm coming in. So, you know, hold your dogs. I mean, it's dark.

And but this man shared with me and he says, Mr. Koenig, you know, I'm so concerned for all this stuff. And he's the treasures on earth were ruining his life. And he couldn't bring the plumber or the electrician in.

He'd have men of the church come in to fix it because he didn't want any outsider to ever go into his house lest they see what's there. So they'd come back and get it. And the missus had this Dutch plates.

These were the New Year Christmas plates in Holland. He used to put them out the beautiful blue. And this was a collection worth thousands of.

I think he said five to ten thousand dollars. And and I read the words on it in Dutch and admired him. And after I talked to well, he said to me one time, he said, Otto, you know, it's so frustrating.

I've got all this stuff and he's very rich and I've got all this stuff. And and I have no nobody to give it to. My son is a slothful man.

He drink and he's on drugs. He's he's no good and he'll just be worse. I can't leave it all to him.

And he says, I have no other. Well, what a problem. Nobody to give it to.

And these people were nervous and their riches ruined their lives. And they were not effective for God as a witness. Oh, if he could have only given that money to some missionaries and learned what life was all about and had the joy of treasure in heaven, you know what I mean? Rather than treasure in heaven is better than treasure on earth.

Treasure on heaven is better than credit cards on earth. Well, and so that last day, God got to her through the surrendering rights message. And she took that.

She had asked me earlier, well, which one would like the best? She took the nicest plate out of that collection and gave it to me with tears in her eyes. God got hold of her and she broke up her collection, which wasn't worth as much with this one plate missing. And I went home.

The thing by itself is worth maybe about five hundred dollars. I brought it home. I said, Carol, to my wife, I said, we got a five hundred dollar plate hanging on our wall.

I said, you know, does that bother you? You know, five years later, I went back to the family, took it back. But, you know, I remember the man drove me to the airport. He says, I can't believe it.

Something happened to my wife. She broke up her collection. Something happened to her.

I think she's over at the treasures. And and she says, I still can't believe she did it. And and a couple of years later, I went back and stayed in their house.

Well, I didn't stay in their house again, stayed in another house. And I went to their house with this plate. I said, ma'am, God, all God wanted from you is to be willing to let go of it.

And you did. I said, I'm bringing it back. This plate is lonely in my house.

It needs to be in this collection. It's better out there. So they got it back.

Maybe someday I'll get the whole thing. I don't know. It doesn't really matter.

They have nowhere else to give it. But anyway, treasures on earth, all the people. Can you see we can hang on? So and yet they're Christian people go to church every Sunday, but they have not got the joy of giving.

They're they're thinking chronos, aren't they? Every day time and they're not thinking about eternity and the things that last. We had a speaker at headquarters came through and he said, there's three things that last forever. Get hold of those.

And then he said, God lasts forever. Get to know him. Seek him with all your heart.

Know him better than anybody else. The word of God, the Bible will last forever. Hey, master the book.

Forget about all the other reading. He says, master the book. And you know, it's going to be there.

And the souls of men last forever. Give your life and everything you have for the soul. He says, that's the only thing that will not burn things that will not burn up.

That is with us forever. Give yourself to it. Wise words, wasn't it? And I was in Bandung, Java.

Oh, that's that's an oriental city in the island of Java. Java has more people than in the whole Java alone has more people in the whole country of Japan. It's unbelievable.

The crowd in that island. And in that oriental city where there was no, no, no sewage system. Can you imagine places with disease and so on in places like that? And I'd go jogging.

And we lived in a Chinese section where I rented a house. We were there for language study. And I rented a house there and jogging in the morning.

And there's this poor, poor people going through the garbage dumps and from the houses, cans of the rich, richer Chinese people and getting their food. I would see people on the street, sometimes laying in a ditch, just very sick and fever. And what am I supposed to do to go? The hospitals didn't want them because it's unless I could pay the bills.

There's so many. What can you do next day? You come by the same street and they're dead. Life is so cheap and it really tears you.

And I see this thing. And there was this little church there. And the pastor was started by some mission group.

And the pastor was spoke Indonesian so clear and so slow that it was a good place for language study. So that's where we went to church. Matter of fact, I went there every day too.

And I'd use the room in his church for language study and, and so on to get away and go there every day. Now, I, I saw the poverty of those people and I saw the poverty of that pastor. And, uh, I touched my heart.

I, my nerves were so bad. I had to stop language study and that was tragic. I really wasted the whole year in a, I wasted a year of Kronos time.

And, uh, because my nerves were so bad, I couldn't continue the language study. And so, um, I was there at this hospital. It was a Filipino doctor, wonderful Christian man.

And, uh, he gave me shots of vitamin B and he, he, I said to him, doctor, what is the matter with me? What can I do? And he says, Mr. Coning, I don't want to tell you the answer. I said, you must tell me the answer. If you know it, he says, you'll be angry at me.

He says, you won't appreciate what I've got to tell you. I said, go ahead and tell me. And he says, it's your stinginess.

You're so stingy that it's affecting your nervous system. I said, what's stinginess? I said, yes, it's right. You're right.

I am stingy. I'm Dutch. It's my father's fault.

I'm just like him. I said, no, he says, no. He says, if you let go of your things, then your nerve system will clear.

You're worrying about things you're worrying about. Just give it away and let God take care of you. Wow.

I went all kinds of beggars there and it was plenty of room to give it away. But that little church, there was a bigger man. Can you imagine and I ride my bicycle and I'd give him this large 50 rupee a coin, which is worth 12 and a half cents in our money at that time.

And I dropped that in his cup. We couldn't give from the house because they put a mark on your gate and everybody could be there. The Muslim religion, you know, is that way you have to have beggars.

And that's part of getting to heaven if you take care of beggars. So families literally will blind a baby at birth so that they'll have a blind person to earn the living for the family down the road. It's amazing.

And so this blind beggar was sitting there and I'd come with my bicycle to go to church. He knew the brake on my bicycle squealed a little bit. And he'd say, Terima Kasih Tuan when I put my coin, that big coin.

He could live on that. Several of the family could live on that coin. One day they could buy rice and stuff.

And so his relatives no doubt knew that they called me Tuan. So he knew that I was the white man that came on this bicycle and he would say that Terima Kasih Tuan. And they thanked me.

And one day I don't go by. And next day he said, where were you? I was sick or something. I said, he says, you didn't come yesterday.

We didn't have food. Where were you? And I said, oh, I dropped two coins. I'd always save those.

They were like size of a half dollar and I'd always save them wherever I went to for this. And I literally, I went around the block. I waited to see what was happening because I came back one time early and he was gone.

I thought, how long does that man sit there on the side of the road? And I finally, I went around the block and I found after I'd gone, the relatives came and got him. I mean, they earned enough for that day and no need him sitting there. So I was supplying that family with that coin, 12 and a half cents.

And it was just unbelievable. Same with that woman there in the, that went through the garbage cans. One morning I just stopped and I gave her a hundred rupee a note, which was 25 cents worth, something like that.

And I said, take this. And she almost wept. And it was Muslim lady, just that little bit.

And friends, that doctor said, Mr. Koning, quit your conniving and quit being stingy and your nerves. And that's what happened. Friends, I learned to give.

And later, as we learned the spiritual gifts in the advanced seminar, years later, I found out that God had given me the spirit of the spiritual gift of giving. I didn't know that. But the opposite, the bad side of that is the stinginess, you see, hanging on, don't spend money on yourself.

So you hang on and now you don't spend money on yourself. You give it away. It's the same, really the same thing.

But this was hard for me at first, friends, to just give. And it was even harder on my wife. Well, don't give if your wife isn't for it.

OK, don't cause trouble in the family. You've got to be agreed on it. But anyway, I would drop off these.

I get the best hundred kilo bag of rice, the best quality rice on the rice market. I couldn't carry it on my bicycle. So I hired this little bitch.

And this little bitch is a bicycle taxis in the Orient. And he put it in his bicycle tire and he followed me. We make our way to the church and I'd say, Pastor, Pastor, I've brought this bag for you.

He said, Oh, that's beautiful rice. That's the best rice. I said, Why not? I said, I want you to have it.

He says, Oh, and I can never eat all that rice. He says, My people are so poor. Why don't you give it to the church? I said, No, I don't want to give it to church.

Want to give it to you? I knew this, that if I gave it to the church, that pastor wouldn't eat, sacrifice all the rice to the poor people. I said, No, I'm giving it to you. Well, he says, Do you mind? I said, It's yours to do with what you want, but it's your rice.

And so he would feed the whole that little church were eating. And every month, every week I'd come with this bag of rice. It was only so many dollars for us.

But to them, it kept them. And these people were so poor. And I'm worshipping with them on Sunday, my wife and I see.

I said, No, pastor, don't ever tell them I bring you this rice, will you? I want to have a good relationship with your people and worship with them. But to bet your driver, you know, was related. Well, I'd hire a different bet your driver every time to bring the rice.

And somehow it got to, Hey, it's this white man. The white man that rides the bicycle. And that was an oddball thing.

You know, the white man doesn't ride bicycles in Bandung, Java. Right. And they said, Why do you ride a bicycle? And all the other missionaries are driving these big Toyota's, the best Toyota's that made in Japan.

And they said, They don't give us rides. The missionaries that started these churches, they don't give us a ride because they don't want to get their cars dirty. That's what they said.

And they sit and worship with us. But they always come running by. Why did they have to drive those big cars? And they're talking to me because I'm riding this bicycle.

And they said, They don't ever bring us a bag of rice. He said, You bring a bag of rice. There's a difference between you missionaries.

What is going on? And that's the questions they asked. And it hurt them. And so I said to one of these missionaries, tactfully, I said, Why do you drive these big Toyota's? Well, you know what the answer was? He says, Well, Mr. Koenig, it's good stewardship.

He says, Our mission, we buy them in Japan. We buy these big ones and we can get them and we can ship them over. You know the cost of vehicles here.

We can, after three, four years, we can, five years, we can sell these things for more than what we paid for them. And we're saving God's money. And so if we buy enough of them, then we can get a special price.

And he says, We can sell it here, buy a brand new in Japan. We can drive free of charge, never have any cost, never have any repairs. We're being stewards of God's money so that the church pays for this.

And so we're saving. What are they saving? Kronos items, right? Just like the Kronos time, we're saving things of this world, but they're turning their people against them. And who wins the hearts? The guy that rides the bicycle and brings him a bag of rice.

And I, and I said, Oh man, you see how many times we do this. We take, we, we, we miss Kairos situations and we, and we're trying to save regular time. The, the, uh, Mr. Gothard recently said, you know, that window shopping is, uh, is an exercise in discontentment.

Interesting statement. I guess reading the catalogs and seeing all the stuff you don't have yet as an exercise in discontentment. I, I don't know, but we're so geared to things and yet we don't have time to really minister.

Isn't it true that we don't have time to go to the mission or to go to the neighbors or really to talk or even come to the meetings to worship God, or even to really pray or study the word, memorize the word of God. We simply don't have time because we've got all these things like I did. And I don't know if any of you know the family, uh, the, uh, had this very small house rent house or he owned it.

I think he had six children, had only two bedrooms. So the parents had one and the six children had the other problem was they had one girl and five boys, but they had three sets of bunk beds in that small bedroom. They prayed, God, give us a bigger house.

We need a bigger house. So bad we're crowded. It was just narrow aisles between those bunk beds.

And they had to change their clothes in the bathroom because there was one girl and five guys and they all grew up together in that one room. They prayed and prayed. God never gave him a bigger house.

Finally, they quit praying. They say, God, you're telling us to be content in what we got. And he says, and then he says, later, I realized the blessing.

He says, he said to his men, he said, man, don't ever get a bigger house. He says, this is what happened in my house. He said, all the six kids would talk together.

They would hold each other accountable. Where were you today? Who did you talk to? Where'd you go? And he says, after I sent him to bed, they were, I would always let him talk a while. I realized that was working for me.

After about an hour, I say, hey, get to sleep kids. You know, it's getting late, but he says, they knew each other so well. They, they, now they sing together.

They became each other's best buddies, but they held each other accountable. Where were you? They knew where they knew what they were thinking. They know what the other were doing.

Uh, you can't talk that much to people without knowing what's in their hearts and in their minds. And he says, you know, my children were protected from all the temptations that come along. Don't, he says, he said to us, don't, don't ever get one bedroom for each child.

He says, it's, it's so damaging. He says, and worse yet is to put a lock on the door. He said, take, he says, sell the big houses.

He says, you know what, what you're doing? You have to lock the door. And I stay in many houses and you see there's room for pictures on the walls, you know, in their house, there was only one small, they put a Bible text there to remind them of the Lord, you know, because they couldn't see the other walls anyway for the bunk beds. But they, uh, he says, oh, you can see where people are by what it's in the bedroom, what pictures, what they worship, whatever, what they have there, what music they play.

Our kids never, he said, there wasn't room for a music box in that place. So he says, they never could play wrong music. There was, they couldn't hide pornography magazines.

My guys, never five or never had trouble with it because, Hey, they were sharing a room with five other people who could walk in anytime. And, and, and then, and they got out of all kinds of problems that young men get into and young ladies get into. And, and because there was no, they were accountable, there was built in accountability.

And he says, he says, men, protect your children, protect your teenage is hard enough to get through without these temptations. So he says, and then isn't this something in America today, we're all talking about getting to bigger houses and more room and building on areas. And I say, sell, he said, sell the big house, get out of debt, rent a little stack them in there with bunk beds.

And he says, you, what's worth more to you, your children that save them from the temptation. So well, friends, we're so concerned with this chronos thing, aren't we? The here and now the time. And yet the final one of the 10 commandments, thou shalt not covet.

I think it's the most broken commandment in the Christian church today. We talk about the other, but coveting and Bible is all full of verses on being content with what you have and, and so on. And then God wants to meet our needs.

There's a verse in Timothy two verse four. He says, be not entangled with the things of this world. He that wars should not be entangled with the things of this world.

And we get so tied up repairing, don't we repairing and ensuring and we're polishing it up and keeping it safe and fixing it. And Oh, it's not true. We spend so much time at that.

And we go for all this stuff, the pleasures and the leisure time and hobbies, hobbies aren't wrong, but if hobbies consume your life and you can walk into any house and see when that has happened and taken over at home decoration, sure. It's nice to decorate your house, but it's so easy to go off to depend on that one and over a stop somewhere. Okay.

Ask your husband, is this enough or isn't it enough? You know, ask somebody, but, but stop somewhere. De-junk your house. Why? Because, because you can't find a room to pray and you see all the things in your, and you're distracted from prayer by all the stuff you got.

You're you stumble over it. You buy new stuff because it's stacked underneath the old stuff. You already got it twice, but hey, you buy it.

And that's when Bill Godfrey had his homeschool program. And we got into that. The first thing he said, now you can't get in unless you de-junk your house, because it's going to take a lot of time.

And the more clutter you have, the more distractions you have, you won't be able to manage the homeschooling. So he says, de-junk the house first, then you're, then you qualify along with the other qualifications and friends. What we need to do is forget about all this, all this stuff that burns up.

The man was right. These things, there's only three things that don't pass away. And it says here in Matthew 6, lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth, where rust and moths and thieves break through and steal.

Lay up for yourself treasure in heaven. How do you do that? You know, I have, I've asked many people of late the question, when we get to heaven, do you think you'll be able to increase your treasure after you get there? What do you think? Hmm? Most people say, no, the only treasure you have in heaven is what you've put there while you were down here. Now, when you get to heaven, all the earthly treasures are gone.

All you'll have on your plate is what you've put there. And I'm afraid some of us are going to not have very much. And others will have, be rulers of cities, maybe treasure cities, I don't know.

But friends, I found out that the only thing that I really have is what's up there. And I'll have that for all eternity. And of course, I'm older than most of you.

So, you know, you say, yeah, you can say that you don't have that many years left. So, you know, you can live with what you got. But, you know, treasures on earth are better than treasures in heaven, better than treasures on earth.

And friends, I found this, Philippians 4.19 says, but my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory. Isn't that what he said? Now, to whom does he write? Some people take that verse out of context, that is written to the church of Philippi, not to the other churches. And the church of Philippi, that's where Paul says, you know, once again, you met my needs.

You know, not that I speak in respect of want, but the church sent to Paul and to his need and to Jerusalem and their needs. And that was a giving church. That church had treasure in heaven.

And he says to that church, all your needs are met because that treasure in heaven, that there's no moths there, there's no thieves there. It's there forever. And so the person that has treasure in heaven will never be need on earth.

You won't have to worry about retirement. You won't have to worry about, hey, just make sure you when you take care of the other guy, God will take care of you. Have you found that out? I for so long in life, I took care of myself.

It doesn't, not too good. But when God takes care of me, if I take care of the other guy, hey, it goes real nice. Philippians four is good only for those that have treasure in heaven.

And then you can say, God, I gave too much to the missions and now I'm stuck. Could you send a transfer voucher down here and get a little bit of the need? I mean, but God says, yes, I will meet your needs, right? What do you have insurance or not? He'll meet your needs. And it's, and then it says we are to be Christ-like.

Now, what was Christ? How did he live? Well, he had this robe, but you know, how much clothes do you think Jesus had? And what he had was given to him, sold by some dear ladies and, and he didn't have a place to lay his head. Now, if we're going to be Christ-like, how can we be Christ-like? Do you see it? He didn't have any treasures on earth. He didn't look for that.

He didn't live for that. Why? Why do I ask? Because he'd seen heaven. Let us pray.

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