

## Time Well Spent

In the days leading up to Israel's entry into the promised land of Canaan, Moses exhorted, *"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."* (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

Those in Moses' audience had already been told that their faithfulness to God would be a requirement for survival in the new land (Deuteronomy 5:31-33). However, the Lord did not intend for this faithfulness to die with the adults of that day. Instead, His desire was for His will to be done in Israel generation after generation after generation. With that desire, He inspired Moses to tell the families of Israel how to maintain faithfulness throughout their posterity. His instructions demanded time spent in the home among father, mother and children.

Notice the emphasis on communication in the home in verse seven. At home ("when thou sittest in thine house"), in a journey ("when thou walkest by the way"), at night ("when thou liest down") and in the morning ("when thou risest up") there was to be time spent disciplining the family in the way of righteousness. It's obvious that God expected nothing to stand in the Israelites' way when it came to devoting time to their families. As their great leader, Joshua later declared, *"as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."* (Joshua 24:15). The busiest man among them understood how vital it was for him to give of himself to his family.

There's no question that life is full of distractions. In today's world, what with work, school, extra-curricular activities, clubs, recreation, and the like, our lives are extremely busy. Any one of these pursuits has the potential to swallow up our time and devour the hours we should be spending with our family. Before we know it, the kids are grown and we have been so busy that were it not for the videos and snapshots taken at birthdays and holidays, we would completely forget what our children looked like in their youth.

Certainly there is work that needs to be done (II Thessalonians 3:10) and there are other duties of life that need to be discharged, but before we let too many of those special family moments get away from us, let's pause and consider the blessing that God has given us in our families. Let's set aside time each evening or morning to read the Bible together and pray as a family. Parents, let's BRING our children to every worship service and Bible class and take advantage of additional opportunities the congregation affords us for fellowship. Let's play games together as a family. Let's talk to one another about the day's events, about our favorite things or about other interesting subjects. Let's do all of this while allowing the phone to ring unanswered and the TV to stay in the "Off" position.

In all of my years of life, I have never heard anyone say, "I wish I had not spent so much time with my family." Family time is indeed time well spent.

### Is This Your Family?

"Morning, Honey, no time to eat,  
The clock says eight thirty-one.  
I'll spend some time with you tonight."  
And with that, the husband was gone.

"Don't hold supper for me tonight, Mom."  
"Me either, Mother dear."  
"I have football." "I have the play."  
And quickly the kids disappeared.

Come six o'clock the husband comes  
And says, "Good evening, Sweetie."  
"No time to talk," replies the wife.  
"I forgot. I have a meeting."

And now it's ten o'clock at night  
And all are in their beds.  
They're resting up for tomorrow  
When they'll go through it all again.

But says the man before he shuts  
His eyes in peaceful slumber,  
"Tomorrow we'll get the family together.  
We'll spend time just with each other."

"Morning, Honey, no time to eat."  
"Don't hold supper, Mother."  
"The PTA meets tonight at seven."  
And the new day's just like the other.

Oh, dear families, spend your days  
In haste and inattention.  
Remember though, you'll never be close  
If you always go in different directions.

Take time to be with your family today.  
Don't say like the man in this poem,  
"Tomorrow we'll get the family together."  
Friends, tomorrow may never come.

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