

Month #8

Lay Speaker Presentation

“How to Live on Twenty-Four Hours a Day” is the title of an excellent article by Arnold Bennett. He wrote,

The supply of time is truly a daily miracle. No one can take it from you; no one receives either more or less time than you receive. Talk about an ideal democracy. In the realm of time, there is no aristocracy of wealth and no aristocracy of intellect. Genius is never rewarded by even an extra hour a day.

Bennett is absolutely correct. The President of the United States has as much time as an inmate in a correctional institution. A stay-at-home mom has as much time as a busy CEO of a Fortune 500 company. A college student has as much time as his professor. A soldier has as much time as someone not interested in the military. A pastor has as much time as the layperson in the pew. The bassoonist in a symphony orchestra has as much time as the conductor.

What is really interesting about time is that we find time for what we consider important. Like what, you ask? We find time for sleep. The average adult sleeps seven to eight hours out of every twenty-four. In other words, on average, people sleep one-third of their lives. We also find time to eat. The average person spends at least one hour per day eating. And we find time to work in order to earn a living.

Why do we find time for sleeping, eating and working? Because those things are important to us. We find time for what we consider important.

Jesus had only a limited time on earth. In fact, the time He devoted to actual hands-on ministry occupied about three years. What was His perspective on time? He summarized it clearly in Matthew 6:33 when He said, “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.” And that’s precisely what Jesus did. He practiced what He preached. He talked no further down the road than He walked. He clearly put the kingdom of God first in His life and work.

Would it surprise you to discover that the majority of His time was spent ministering to people? Would it surprise you to learn that as followers of Christ, we are to do the same thing? Would it surprise you to learn that as His disciples, we are to do what Jesus did?

Sure, Jesus had to sleep, eat and work, just as we do. But His emphasis was on the kingdom of God. That was His priority. That was His mission. That was His passion.

As you and I consider the twenty-four hours God gives to us each day, should we seek to do less that our Lord did? Or should we also make service in God's kingdom, especially here at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, a priority in our lives?