

A Lost Opportunity

(Ephesians 5:16)

- Introduction:
1. How many of have regretted missing out on opportunities in our lives.
 2. How many times have we said, "If I only would have..."
 3. (Ephesians 5:16) - Redeem the times.
 - a. The term redeem can mean to "buy back," or to "buy up."
 - b. In this passage it means to "buy up," or to make the best use of our time.
 - c. Ills. of army private on train and going through a tunnel.
 4. Let's consider the idea of "lost opportunities."

I. Biblical Examples of Lost Opportunities

- A. Adam and Eve
 1. (Genesis 1:28-3:24).
 2. They lost an opportunity to live in a sin-free world.
 3. Factors to consider with Eve's temptation.
 - a. As far as we know, she is given second-hand information from Adam about what God said about the tree (2:17-19).
 - b. Questions God (3:1).
 - c. Misrepresents God (3:1).
 - d. Contradicts God (3:4).
 - e. Promises great things (3:5)
 - f. Lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (3:6; 1 John 2:15-16).
- B. The People of Noah's Day (Genesis 6; 2 Peter 2:5).
- C. The Thief on the Cross (Luke 23:39-41).
- D. Felix (Acts 24:24-25).

II. Opportunities We Cannot Afford To Lose.

- A. Raising Our Children.
 1. (Ephesians 6:4).
 2. (Genesis 12:8; Genesis 22).
 3. (1 Samuel 3:13; 2:22-24) Eli.
- B. Serve the Lord.
 1. (Mark 9:1; Galatians 6:10).
 2. How many people can be changed by kindness and goodness (Romans 2:4).
- C. Speak for the Lord.
 1. (2 Kings 7:9).
 2. (Isaiah 6:1-9).

- Conclusion:
1. Don't miss the opportunities that God puts before you.
 2. In his providence, he does open doors for us (Revelation 3:8).
 3. Make yourself available (Isaiah 6:8), and walk with your eyes open (Ephesians 5:15), and buy up the opportunities before you (Ephesians 5:16).