

Lost Opportunities

I. NOW, THE ONLY TIME WE HAVE.

1. Must Do It Now.
John 9:4; Prov. 3:27.
2. Life Uncertain.
2 Cor. 6:2; James 4:13-14.
3. Warn The Wicked Now.
Ezek. 3:19; 33:8.
4. Don't Spend All Opportunities With A Few. Matt. 10:14.

III. OBEY- OPPORTUNITY NOW!

1. Jesus Bids Us Come. Matt. 23:37-38.



II. OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE NOW.

1. Judgment Based On Serving. Matt. 25:34-46.
2. Now Is Time To Prepare. Matt. 25:1-12.
2. Chorazin And Bethsaida Rejected. Matt. 11:20-21.
3. Invitation To Great Feast- NOW. Luke 14:16-24.

LOST OPPORTUNITIES

Gal. 6:10

INTRO: Write out Gal. 6:10. How many times have you heard: "Opportunity only knocks once." The Greeks pictured Opportunity as a beautiful woman with lovely long hair. As she comes to you, you catch hold of her by her beautiful long hair. If you fail to catch her as she goes by, you will never have another opportunity, because she is bald-headed behind.

Do you remember Aesop's Fable concerning the grasshopper? The story is: One bright day in late autumn a family of ants were bustling about in the warm sunshine, drying out grain they had stored up during the summer, when a starving grasshopper, his fiddle under his arm, came up and humbly begged for a bite to eat. "What!" cried the ants in surprise, "Haven't you stored anything away for the winter? What in the world were you doing all last summer?" "I didn't have time to store up any food," whined the grasshopper; "I was so busy making music that before I knew it the summer was gone." The ants shrugged their shoulders in disgust. "Making music, were you?" they cried, "Very well; now dance!" And they turned their backs on the grasshopper and went on with their work.

We can learn that there is a time for work and a time for play. Also, we learn from this fable that if we fail to use an opportunity when it is available, it is soon gone forever.

I. NOW IS THE ONLY TIME WE HAVE

- A. We must do it now! John 9:4; Prov. 3:27.
- B. Life is so uncertain and so short that we have no assurance of tomorrow. 2 Cor. 6:2; James 4:13-14. Here we see the urgency. If we are going to do God's will, we cannot put it off. We may not have another opportunity.
- C. We must warn the wicked while we have opportunity. Ezek. 3:19. We must warn the wicked or his blood will be on our hands. Ezek. 33:8. Too often we put off teaching the lost friend. We may never have another opportunity. We may feel we should wait until a better time. There may never be a better time. His blood will be on our hands. If we fail to obey God when we have been warned, we may wait too long. We may become hard and the gospel will no longer touch us. If we put off doing God's will when we have been warned, we will be lost, but the one that warned us will not be held responsible.
- D. Do not spend all your opportunities with a few. If they will not receive you, go to some other. Matt. 10:14.

II. WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE NOW

- A. The whole judgment is based on serving. When we read of the judgment in Matt. 25:34-46, we see that being saved or condemned depends on how we serve.

- B. Now is the time to prepare. The five foolish virgins did not make preparations; they failed to enter the marriage feast. This picture in Matt. 25:1-12 should cause us to see the importance of getting ready now. We must take advantage of the opportunity now.

III. WE MUST OBEY WHILE WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY

- A. Jesus bids us come. We must not reject Him as Jerusalem did. Matt. 23:37-38.
- B. Do not reject as did Chorazin and Bethsaida. Matt. 11:20-21. Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum were all within three or four miles of each other; they were prosperous and well populated in the time of Jesus. Peter and Andrew came from Bethsaida. John 1:44. Jesus resided in Capernaum; it was called His own city. Matt. 4:13; Matt. 9:1. They knew of his miracles and teaching, but as a whole rejected Him.
- C. The invitation to the great feast is now. A great supper was prepared. Many were invited, but they began to make excuses for not attending. Luke 14:16:24. The Lord was angry, and sent the servants into the streets and lanes of the city and invited the poor, maimed, and blind. There was still room, so He sent messengers to the highways and hedges to bid them come. Then He said that none who refused would taste his supper. We may think those who refused Jesus first were the Jews, so the Gentiles were invited. But what about today? Look how many refuse, then go find others.

CONCL: If you reject Christ now, you may never have another opportunity. Do not fiddle your life away; obey God now!