

Week One: Serving God with our Time

Ecclesiastes 3.1-11, 14 / John 2.1-10

14th September 2025 – Revd Michelle Lepine

Summary of key points

“His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you (John 2.5)

“I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him.”

"The time has come," the Walrus said, "To talk of many things: Of shoes—and ships—and sealing-wax— Of cabbages—and kings— And why the sea is boiling hot— And whether pigs have wings" (The Walrus and the Carpenter – Lewis Carroll)

Time is a complex and flexible thing: If you think about it, 10 minutes of a bad toothache or of waiting for test results, are not the same as 10 minutes spent listening to your favourite music or talking to your best friend over a cup of fresh coffee. Time is weird. But the important thing about time is not whether we fully understand it, nor how accurately we can measure it, the important question is ‘**How do you spend your time?**’

- Time is a gift from God (1 Chrons 29.14), so it is important to not waste our time but to wisely discern how we give our time back to him in service and for his glory and praise.
- **Digging deeper:** we must spend time with God to go deeper in relationship with him. This helps us to increase our own wellbeing & resilience, but we must be prepared for him to challenge us about how we use our time and to lead us in a new direction in serving him and others.
- There are many demands on our time but how we use it must align to God’s purposes and plans, as individuals and the Body of Christ.
- **The wedding at Cana:** Jesus was a guest himself at this wedding but responded to the needs of others by being available, offering kindness and compassion and revealing the awesome presence and power of God in a potentially shameful and devastating situation. He interrupted his plans for others.
- **Times and seasons:** We have little control over times and seasons but as people of faith we remain *hopeful* and we can choose how we partner with God who we recognize ‘has made everything beautiful in its time’.

Application questions for discussion

Read the Bible passages again, ideally using at least 2 different versions, and then consider the following questions:

- Reflect on an average day / week in your life. How do you spend your time? What are the demands on your time and are there areas where you could release time and offer it in service to God?
- What have you done recently to go deeper in relationship with God? What might you commit to doing to ‘dig deeper?’
- Can you think of a situation when someone gave their time to help you? Reflect on the difference it made and give thanks for them. If you can, let them know.
- Are there needs in your church, parish, or community to which you could give some time. *“His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”*” How will you respond?

Prayer activity

Thank you, Lord, for the precious gift of time. Help me to reassess how I use my time and to realign my plans and purposes to yours. Just as you have given time as a gift, help me to be available to responding to the needs of others and to offer my time in ways which build your kingdom, point others to Christ and reveal your glory. Lord challenge me afresh and, if it is your will, lead me in a new direction to serve your church for your praise and glory. Amen.