

EXCUSES,
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SERMON NOTES

Week 2 August 17, 2025

"Making Time"

Matthew 6:28-34; Luke 16:19-31



I. Introduction

- A. The most common excuse: I don't have enough _____.
- B. We cannot increase the time we have each day, just how we _____ it.
- C. Avoid _____ and seek our desired outcome in faith.

II. Reflection

- A. We are encouraged to start and end the day with _____.
- B. Faith thrives when God isn't an _____.
- C. _____ & _____ as needed.

III. Staying in Love with God

- A. Instead of worrying, seek the _____ of God First.
- B. To foster great faith, _____ to your love of God.
- C. As God loves us, we make time because of our love of the _____.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *August 18-23, 2025*

INTRODUCTION

Each day we have 24 hours in which to accomplish many things: our jobs, taking care of our basic needs, taking care of the kids or loved ones, hobbies, and time with the Lord. At times, however, we can complain that we “don’t have enough time” to do all we want to do. We make excuses. We do not spend the time we wish for in prayer, study, or worship of God. Life is busy yet we find encouragement in the Bible and from one another as we seek greater faith and witness. The following daily study guide points us to such places of hope and challenge. May these bless you as you examine your time and how to best use it in this season of your life.

- *Pastor Rick*

Monday: Matthew 4:4

It is no secret that we need food to survive. Amid Jesus’ temptation in the dessert, he spoke these words to the Devil. This reminder that beyond food for our bodies we should fill up on Scripture, praise, prayer, and reflection to further our faith. What is the place you engage with God the best? Why do you think that is?

Tuesday: Ephesians 5:15–16

Making good use of our time is not about showcasing our time management skills, but effective witness and helping bring the Kingdom of God a bit closer to earth. The Apostle Paul’s encouragement to avoid wasting time and put each day we are given to good aids us in our faith journey. What area(s) in your life to do you find yourself more prone to waste time? What would it look like to recover that time and use it elsewhere?

Wednesday: Exodus 20:8

Likely the most challenging thing to do in our fast-paced world is taking the time to rest. God’s command to observe the Sabbath takes sacrifice, pre-planning, and deep intention. Yet, if done, we find meaningful rest that aids in our weekly rhythm. What do you do on your Sabbath that feeds your mind, body, and soul?

Thursday: “Take Time to Be Holy” UMH#395 (<https://hymnary.org/hymn/UMH/395>)

This hymn calls us to take time to be with God. Through prayer, study, silent reflection, service, and so much more, we can place ourselves in God’s presence and find guidance on how to serve in ways that please the Lord. Which verse of the hymn most speaks to you today? Why do you think that is?

Friday: Colossians 3:2

In seeking to make new practices and habits, we will encounter distractions. When we do, it is all the more important to return to the “why” of what we are doing and seek to honor God through how we live. When you get distracted, what have you found that gets you back on track?

MOVING FORWARD

As we continue to grow in our practice of evangelism, may the Holy Spirit continue guiding you. May your deeds match your words so that others may see the confirmation of your faith. This week, can you commit to telling one person about how God has helped with you?

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) time B) use, C) wasting. IIA) God, B) afterthought, C) Reflect/change. IIIA) Kingdom, B) return, C) Lord.