

House On The Rock Life Group Study outline

May: Redeeming the Time

Week 2 – How to Redeem the Time

Introduction

Many moments of great triumph in history have resulted from what, to the untrained eye, would appear to be accidents of chance. Sir Isaac Newton discovered gravity while sitting under an apple tree at home during a lockdown because of an outbreak of plague. We have heard tales of wars won by an unexpected event that favoured the underdog – for example the battle of Agincourt in 1415, where rain turned the open field into a muddy mess that hindered the much stronger French army. One thing is common to these examples. World-changing scientific discoveries are *never* made by people who are not sufficiently trained to appreciate the meaning of that discovery. Great victories in war against the odds are *never* won by those untrained to wield weapons of war, or unwilling to risk life and limb in defence of something they hold dear. It is said that accidental discoveries result from the convergence of preparation, opportunity, and desire. The Bible in Eccl 9:11 says that time and chance happen to them all. God ensures that opportunity will come our way. The question is, what should we be doing now to ensure that we are prepared when the opportunity comes? How should we redeem the time?

Pilot text

Eph 5:15-17 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Eccl 9:11 I returned and saw under the sun that: The race is not to the swift, Nor the battle to the strong, Nor bread to the wise, Nor riches to men of understanding, Nor favour to men of skill; But time and chance happen to them all.

- What do we mean by “redeeming the time”?
 - Eph 5:16, 1 Sam 10:1-7.
- How should we redeem the time?
 - Eccl 9:11, 1 Sam 30, Gen 14:14, Heb 12:1-2, Prov 24:3-4.
- Take home actions
 - Take some time over the next week to consider your experiences of being in a season of lockdown and what you learned about redeeming the time. Come to next week’s meeting prepared to share your wisdom so that others can learn from your experiences.