

stewarding the hour-glass

jan-george blignaut

number our days

Psalm 90:12

¹² Teach us to number our days so that we may gain a heart of wisdom

stewardship

Definition:
Stewardship is managing that which belongs to another.

Luke 12:42

And the Lord said, "Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season?"

2 most desirable characteristics of a good steward:

- **Wisdom** – knowing how to apply the principles in God's word.
- **Faithfulness** – applying these principles on a consistent basis.

principles of stewardship

Principles are natural laws instituted by God and have universal application; practices on the other hand are specific to a given situation. Principles are absolute and problem-independent where practices are relative and problem dependent.

Galatians 6:7-9

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

principles of stewardship

• **Principle of Relationship vs Performance**
John 15:5
I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

• **Principle of Ownership**
Psalm 24:1
The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.

• **Principle of Possession**
Joshua 18:3:
Then Joshua said to the children of Israel: "How long will you neglect to go and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers has given you?"

life is short
but
Life is eternal

eternal Life & bringing glory to God

John 17:3-4

³ Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.

McDonald's laws of unseized time

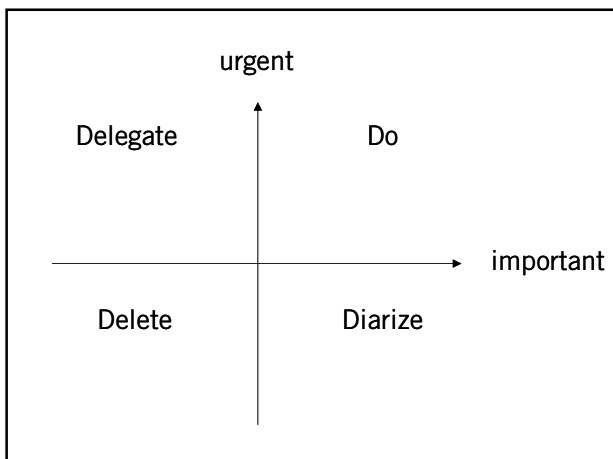
- 1. Unseized time flows towards my weaknesses
- 2. Unseized time comes under the influence of dominant people in my world
- 3. Unseized time surrenders to the demands of all emergencies
- 4. Unseized time gets invested in things that gain public acclamation

MacDonald, G. 1992, Ordering Your Private World

recapturing time

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. ²⁶ Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. ²⁷ No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.



recapturing time

1. I MUST KNOW MY RHYTHMS OF MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS.

2. I MUST HAVE GOOD CRITERIA FOR CHOOSING HOW TO USE MY TIME.

The strength to say "no" firmly but courteously, derives from a sense of purpose / mission:

- What are we called to do?
- What do we do best with our time?
- What are the necessities without which we cannot get along?
- Everything else has to be considered negotiable: Discretionary, not necessary.

recapturing time

3. I SEIZE TIME AND COMMAND IT WHEN I BUDGET IT FAR IN ADVANCE.

Get your priorities right. The non-negotiable aspects of my private world:

a. my spiritual disciplines

- my mental disciplines
- my Sabbath rest
- my commitments to:
 - marriage
 - family
 - - special friendships / fellowship

b. The schedule of the main work to which I am committed.

conclusion

- 'Teach us to number our days so that we may gain a heart of wisdom'
- Be a good steward of the time given to you
- life is short, but Life is eternal
- recapture time by prioritizing and planning according to God's will for your life
