

Finding Sanity in a World Gone Mad

Fixed Focus

When we're young, time drags on. Christmas is too far away from Thanksgiving, let alone Halloween. The hope of our next birthday is sooooo far away. Until it's not. The older we get, the faster time flies. Halloween IS the Christmas season. Four weeks of Advent isn't enough planning time for the holy-days, let alone time for decorating, family, shopping, and parties. It feels like one birthday runs into the next. Imagine what time felt like for someone who lives over a hundred years ... over 120 ... or, biblically, over 300 or 400 or more. Time for Methuselah must have felt like the ticking hand of a stopwatch. On the other hand, when we fix our focus on getting something specifically accomplished, time isn't a fleeting commodity, but a constant companion. Time doesn't exactly stand still, but it's no longer the enemy because our focus is fixed on getting "it" done, whatever it might be. And so, you just gotta wonder: what did Methuselah focus on for all those years?

Genesis 5: 21–27; 6:1–14; 7:11

1. Time may be a _____, but we all have a limited amount of “_____.”
2. Nothing is more important than passing your _____ to the _____.
3. It's easier to _____ than to make the most of the _____ presented to us.
4. In the scope of eternity, how we spend our time _____.

My Count Me In! Commitment

- I'll be here next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- I'll make an effort to make a difference
- I'll @Tag a friend in the Digging Deeper Devotion this week
- I'll Like, Comment, Share, Check-in, and Invite at least once this week

Additional Notes

Digging Deeper

Finding Sanity in a World Gone Mad: Fixed Focus

Scripture: Genesis 5:21 – 6:8

Introduction: There are plenty of distractions calling our names at any given moment. There are the marketing messages squeezed in between the TV dramas and our internet surfing. Then there's the laundry or dishes or dusting that seem to call our name in the middle of the urgent. Was that ice cream I heard calling out to me? Then there are the phone calls, text messages, and Insta notifications that are never ending. How in the world are we supposed to get anything done, let alone fulfill our destinies?

1. Read Genesis 5:21–32. Why do you think the author of this account was so particular about getting the lineage and the exact number of years “right”?
2. How do you think Enoch, a “faithful” man of God, practiced his faith-life in those very early, pre-church and pre-temple days? What distractions do you think Enoch had to contend with?
3. What do you think it means that Enoch “was no more because God took him away? (v 24)
4. Read Genesis 6:1–8. Why do you think God became so disappointed with creation? What do you think God’s thinking about his creation today?
5. How do you think Methuselah spent his time? Consider yesterday as an example of your daily life ... how did you spend your time?
6. Dr. Bill pointed out that, according to this account, Methuselah drowned in the flood. Why do you think he chose not to embrace his father’s beliefs and practices?
7. Whether Methuselah actually lived 969 years as “we” define years or not, the meaning of the account (or the metaphor) is identical. God doesn’t have much use for a wasted life. What will you do today to make your time count?

Next Week: Sanity in a World Gone Mad: A Faithful Family