

Priorities

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: 10 X

Text: John 21:1-19

Those who are 10X don't allow the unimportant things to become the important things. They also refuse to allow the important things to become unimportant. They have learned how to keep the "main thing" the main thing. **Matthew 6:33**

~ William Gladstone – "He is a wise man who wastes no energy on pursuits for which he is not fitted; and he is wiser still who from among the things he can do well, chooses and resolutely follows the best.

Those who are 10X are all about priorities. Daniel always kept his time in prayer. **Daniel 6:10** Those who are 10 X keep God first and seek His Kingdom first. They understand the promise that when they do, everything else will fall into place. Those that are 10X are able to sift through things that demand their time and attention and are able to not only discern what needs to be done first but what doesn't need done at all.

The world is full of distractions. We will always have the tyranny of the urgent and the pull of time wasters. Things like social media and people and conversations that steal our time, resources and attention from what we should be doing.

Ephesians 5:15-17 (NKJV, NLT, CEV)

There will always be lots of good things we can do, we need to know the things that the Lord has called us to do. When you are confident where you should be headed and what you should be doing your priorities become clear. **Acts 6:1-7 (NLT)**

Great Passion + Clear Mission = Focused Action. Peter and the Apostles knew that the Grecian Jews needed their needs met, but they realized that it was not a priority for them to do it personally. It was important but it was not their mission. Those who are 10X learn to stay focused on priorities while still seeing the big picture as things arise.

These four things can be applied in all areas – from family, church and business:

- 1) Determine the validity of the need. Peter and the Apostles saw that the need of the Grecian Jews was legitimate. If the need wasn't met the momentum of the church would slow down and good people would be hurt. The Apostles recognized the problem and then developed a course of action. Instead of meeting the need themselves they figured out another way to get it done. Your child may need help with math, but a tutor may be a better solution to adequately teach because you are not proficient at math.
- 2) Look for the opportunities. Those who are 10X don't just see a problem they recognize the opportunities that they present. While Peter and the Apostles knew they were to be teaching, they saw that this allowed others the ability to develop and serve in very meaningful and practical ways.

- 3) Peter and the Apostles understood the need to delegate to competent people. They chose seven mature, spiritual and respected people that could be trusted with sensitive and caring ministry. This gives people the opportunity to shine. The Apostles appointed other 10X people to do important work. **Acts 6:3** Whenever you delegate it is important to pick the right people. Nothing can hinder a thing like picking the wrong people or a wrong fit.
- 4) They publicly confirmed, affirmed and commissioned people to do the work. **Acts 6:6** They empowered these men to do the work and do it well. They didn't just get people to do a job or do an activity. Those who are 10X understand the difference between activity and effectiveness. Because the Apostles did, there was continued blessing. **Acts 6:7** Remember Jesus has given each of us a Great Commission.

Those who are 10X invest their time in what produces the greatest return. Without the limitation of time, there might be no need to prioritize. But time does limit us and forces us to make choices. The more time we spend on the wrong things, the less time we have to invest in the right things. Time is a matter of stewardship just as much as money and resources.

Being 10X isn't about how hard we work but about how smart we work. Many people work hard, but our work must have a purpose. Those who are 10X understand that you either organize or you agonize.

There are several ways to organize and to spend our time:

- Urgent - loud things first
Many people just want the noise to go away. They want peace first and foremost. Most who do this are people pleasers. They just want everyone to be happy. The truth is they are then often unhappy and stressed. They are always "greasing" the squeaky wheel. When the Grecian Jews complained, Peter didn't take matters into his own hands. He took time to come up with a good solution in a timely matter. Some wheels need grease others are just always going to squeak no matter what you do.
- Unpleasant – hard things first
We used to be taught to do the difficult things first. It is the "dinner before desert" mentality. While there is some value in this thinking, just because it is hard doesn't mean it should be at the top of the list. If you have a strong work ethic this is more than likely how you think. But this often does not leave room for what you alone could be doing and leaves you without the necessary time and energy to do it. Sometimes doing what is enjoyable first can be a better use of time.
- Unfinished – last things first
Like most people you probably have things left on your to do list at the end of the day. The natural thing is to put those at the top of the list the next day. This may not be the best use of time. They may be at the bottom of your list for a reason.

- Unfulfilling – dull things first
This is probably the most common. The truth is the mindless things are usually not the most important things. They also cause us to lose enthusiasm and to lose focus. Put the main things at times when you have the most energy and clarity so that they can be done well and because you enjoy it. Work is gift God gave us to invigorate us not just drain us.
- Ultimate – first things first
Peter understood the concept of spending time only on what ultimately needed done. He took time to make sure that the needs were met and then he got back to praying, preaching and teaching. **Colossians 3:17** In whatever we do, if we put God first, everything else will fall into place.