



Your Days Are Numbered

Andy Stanley

We are beginning a brand new series today called *Time of Your Life*, and so for the next few weeks we're going to talk about time. Now it's such an interesting thing, when it comes to time. One of the things that we all have in common as it relates to time is we are almost always, always, always, in our culture, conscious of what time it is—because of our watches, because of our cell phones, and if you are in school, because there is always a clock on the wall. Half a dozen times a day or a dozen times a day you check to see what time it is. In fact, one of the most common questions, maybe the most common question you ask about time is what time is it? Even while I am preaching today, you are going to check your watch or you are going to check your cell phone to see how I'm doing, which is really kind of strange, because you know we let you out within a one or two or three minute window every single week—and still you are going to check to see how I'm doing. And the reason I let you out on time is because if I don't let you out on time, it creates exponential chaos all over Fulton County. So we are good about that. But in spite of that, you are going to check your watch to see what time it is. Also, you need to know while I'm preaching I have a big, old, giant clock down here in front of me on a screen, so I can always know what time it is. So we are very, very time conscious.

Every once in a while you'll lose yourself in a novel or you'll lose yourself in a hobby or you'll lose yourself in gardening, and you'll say something like this: well, I lost track of time. I just lost track of the time. Very quickly you recover, don't you, and you figure out what time it is. We are very, very time conscious. The problem is that's really not the most important question we should ask when it comes to time. And so for the next few weeks, I want us to begin asking a better question. In fact, as soon as I tell you what the question is you are going to agree that it's a better question. The better question, as it relates to time, is not what time it is, but what am I doing with my time? Not what time is it, but what am I doing with my time? The problem with always checking to see what time it is, is that it's a constant reminder of the thing that is most depressing about you, and that is this: your time is running out.

Aren't you glad you came to church today? Your time is running out. And the problem is, we have calendars that tell us how fast the months go by, how fast the years go by, and then we look at our watches and we see how fast the hours go by, we see how fast the minutes go by, and then some of you have a second hand on your clock and you have no idea what it's there for. It's to remind you how fast, because with a second hand you can actually watch your life slipping away, tick by tick by tick. It is just absolutely depressing. In fact, the older you get, the faster it seems like time goes by. And you may know this: there is actually a scientific explanation as to why, as you get older, time seems to go faster. That's not just your imagination. You experience time as if it's going faster. When you were a kid, Christmas never got here. When you became an adult, it's Christmas like every time you turn around; it's almost Christmas, or there's something related to