



Week 4, Day 5:

I said, "I will watch my ways and keep my tongue from sin; I will put a muzzle on my mouth while in the presence of the wicked." So I remained utterly silent, not even saying anything good. But my anguish increased; my heart grew hot within me. While I meditated, the fire burned; then I spoke with my tongue: "Show me, LORD, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is. You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Everyone is but a breath, even those who seem secure. "Surely everyone goes around like a mere phantom; in vain they rush about, heaping up wealth without knowing whose it will finally be. "But now, Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in you. Save me from all my transgressions; do not make me the scorn of fools. I was silent; I would not open my mouth, for you are the one who has done this. Remove your scourge from me; I am overcome by the blow of your hand. When you rebuke and discipline anyone for their sin, you consume their wealth like a moth—surely everyone is but a breath. "Hear my prayer, LORD, listen to my cry for help; do not be deaf to my weeping. I dwell with you as a foreigner, a stranger, as all my ancestors were. Look away from me, that I may enjoy life again before I depart and am no more."

Psalm 39:1-13

Can you imagine what the world would be like if everyone knew the exact moment they would die? If you knew tomorrow was your last day, would you do things differently? Would you reconcile with a family member, finally quit that job or take a big risk?

No matter how many days we've been given, we don't have a moment to lose. Compared to eternity, our lives here on Earth are like a rainbow or a shooting star -- fleeting, momentary and "a mere handbreadth." James 4:14 compares our lives to a vapor, here for a moment and vanishing in a instant.

The brevity of life is a theme throughout the Bible, and every writer reaches the same divine conclusion: We waste way too much time on things that are not important. In Psalm 39, David writes about watching people spend time and energy amassing wealth they can't take with them. In Luke 12:13-21, Jesus addresses the same issue when he tells the story of a wealthy farmer who hoards his grain. In Ecclesiastes 2, David's son Solomon reflects on his life, fortune and relationships only to reach the same conclusion as his father. All of this toil was meaningless.

Like David and Solomon, we, too, must recognize that hope is found solely in the Lord. The Lord who knitted us together in our mothers' wombs also numbers our days and gives our lives meaning. Let's not neglect what is truly important. What do you need to change today to start making the most of the time you've been given?

Prayer:

God, help me to make the most of my time! Take all that I am and all that I have to use for Your purposes. Make me successful ... not by worldly standards but from Your eternal perspective. Help me to make the most of the time, talents and treasure You have entrusted to me to impact others who don't know You yet!