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**Theme:** “Seize the Day” (Carpe diem)

**Scripture:** Luke 9:63 (The Message) "No procrastination. No backward looks. You can't put God's kingdom off till tomorrow. Seize the day

**A Thought:**

A Thought: Could of, should of and would of...how many times have you said those words? You look back in your life and a cloud of disappointment hovers over you like a horrific humid southern day. At the very moment you are saying those words the tick of the clock keeps clicking. The acclaimed theologian Francis Schaeffer once said....“Life is like a clock with no hands. It’s ticking but you never know when it’s going to strike midnight.” The first century disciples asked Jesus in Matthew 24:3b (NIV) “what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” Forty-six verses later Jesus’ homily describes what will take place or not take place. Fact: Only the Father knows. Jesus wants us to be ready spiritually when He returns. Therefore in the interim as His children He is asking through His word to be “faithful and wise” servants as stated in Matthew 24:45. As mortals living a short time on this earth we must “seize the day” by way of our gifts, talents, wisdom, intellect, love and compassion (Matt.22:37, Luke10:27, Deu.6:5). The Lord has given us precious days and each day is a moment in time and we should not waste it. Mahatma Gandhi a man of integrity and selflessness concurs with this view...”The future depends on what you do today. Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.”

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

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**Talk to yourself:**

- Am I ready to serve the Lord? If not, why not?
- What is God's will and do I trust God's will?
- Am I fearful of failure of applying myself spiritually and personally?
- What steps should I take so that I do not have to say years from now...would of, could of, should of?

**Scriptures to read:**

- Deu. 15:7-8; Joshua 6:1-5; 2 Chron. 15: 7; Psalm 16:11, 139:13-16; Proverbs 8;
- Proverbs 31:8-9; Ecc. 11:1-6; Matthew 6:34, 25:14-30; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 9:59-62;
- 1: Corinthians 9:24; 2 Corinthians 9:6, 24; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; James 1:12

**Quote:**

Max Lucado, author, *"Life...is a cache of moments: measurable and countable increments, like change in a pocket or buttons in a can. Your pocket may be down in a few years, but everyone has a certain number of moments."*

**Bottom Line:**

Every person experiences a "carpe diem" (Seize the Day) moment. We can seize the day in small ways.... a warm smile, a sincere thank you, visiting a senior citizen, tutoring a young child, assisting the poor, teaching a Bible class, witnessing, discipling, evangelizing and so much more. Jesus wants us to be ready no matter when He returns. We must be "faithful and wise" servants as stated in Matthew 24:45a (NIV) *"Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants?."* We are His servants and we should challenge ourselves and serve Him without fear...Proverbs 16:9 *"In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord directs his steps."* We should at all costs adhere enthusiastically to the Lord's directive "follow me" (Luke 9:59).

**NOW.....THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE.**

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

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