



Seize The Day—Don't Squander the Moment

Psalm 90:10-12, 17

Scripture

Psalm 90:10-12 “Our lives last seventy years or, if we are strong, eighty years. Even the best of them are struggle and sorrow; indeed, they pass quickly and we fly away. 11 Who understands the power of your anger? Your wrath matches the fear that is due you. 12 Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts.” CSB

Psalm 90:17 “Let the favor of the Lord our God be on us; establish for us the work of our hands—establish the work of our hands!” CSB

Quote of the day

“The most significant and amazing opportunities in life are waiting just beyond the edge of comfort and reason.”— Pat Kilby

Significant Opportunities call us to forsake our doubts and fears, trust God and move forward by faith. When we move forward by faith, we trust God to lead us to accomplish His will and advance His Kingdom.

Faith in action is not a careless or foolish exercise—it is the courage to believe we must not stand still when God is calling to us move forward.

As we think about Seizing the Day and Squandering opportunities it is necessary to understand the difference between the two.

To squander means to fail to take advantage of an opportunity, it means to waste time, money or resources.

We squander moments and opportunities in our life because we falsely assume we will have another moment, another opportunity and more time.

What does squandering moments and opportunities really look like?

It looks like Pearl Wait.

Jell-O is nearly 130 years old. The story surrounding its inventor reveals what it looks to squander a significant opportunity.

In 1897, Pearl Wait was a construction worker who dabbled in medical remedies and sold his ailment concoctions door-to-door. In the midst of his tinkering with medical remedies he hit on the idea of mixing fruit flavoring with granulated gelatin. His wife named it Jell-O and Pearl Wait began to peddle his new product door to door. Unfortunately sales weren't as strong as he'd hoped, so in 1899, Mr. Wait sold his Jell-O rights to his neighbor Orator Woodward for \$450. Mr. Woodward knew the value of marketing within a period of eight years, Orator Woodward turned a \$450 investment into a multimillion dollar business.

Today, not a single relative of Pearl Wait receives royalties from his Jell-O creation. In 1906, Orator Woodward died at age 50 and later, in 1925, his heirs sold Jell-O to what is now Post Consumer Brands for \$67 million, (in today's economy \$1.25 Billion dollars) ensuring the family would be set for generations to come. Pearl Wait squandered away one of the greatest opportunities in U.S. history for \$450.

Citation: The messy family history behind the Jell-O empire, By [Hannah Sparks](#) Published Aug. 7, 2018

Will the generations after we are gone inherit the blessings from this generation of Cary First, this generation that was willing to Seize the Day, trust God and move forward by faith?

In **Psalm 90:10-12** Moses teaches us three principles related to time:

1. Time is limited v.10

“Our lives last seventy years or, if we are strong, eighty years. Even the best of them are struggle and sorrow; indeed, they pass quickly and we fly away.” CSB

James 4:13-14 “Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will travel to such and such a city and spend a year there and do business and make a profit.” 14 Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring—what your life will be! **For you are like vapor that appears for a little while, then vanishes.**” CSB

Moses teaches us three principles related to time:

2. Human Accountability v.11

“Who understands the power of your anger? Your wrath matches the fear that is due you.” CSB

Moses teaches us three principles related to time:

3. Number our days and apply our hearts to wisdom v.12

“Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts.” CSB

Life is a precious gift given to us by God, therefore we must not squander moments, opportunities or time.

The phrase "**Seize the day**" comes from the Latin phrase "**Carpe Diem.**" This phrase was first written by the Roman poet Horace. Horace was a Roman poet who lived from 65 BC to 8 BC. His poems celebrated life, love, friendship, and the importance of making the most of every moment.

Seize The Day has come to be an expression that encourages people to make the most of every day. Benjamin Franklin used it as a call to action with his quote "**You may delay, but time will not.**" Walt Whitman saw it as a reminder to appreciate the present with "**Not a day passes over the earth, but men and women of no note who do great deeds...**" Winston Churchill was a proponent of Carpe Diem. He believed that people should

make the most of every moment and not waste time on trivial matters. One of his most famous quotes says, **“Success is not final, failure is not fatal.”**

Seizing the Day is the courage to believe something matters, and is so important, it demands, passion and commitment to follow through to the end. Citation: [Carpe Diem Quotes; Historical Figures on Seizing the Day, by Diana, December 3, 2023.](#)

Followers of Christ Seize the Day when we, in the normal rhythm and pattern of life, identify and engage opportunities to demonstrate the love and share the Good the News of Jesus.

What does Seizing the Day really look like?

Have you ever heard of Otto Rohwedder?

Otto Rohwedder Seized the Day and changed the world and we don't even recognize his name. His family came from Germany in the mid 1800's. Otto was very intelligent, he worked hard and his passion was innovation. For thousands of years bread has been a staple food item, but it took the creative efforts of one man to revolutionize the way we eat it.

In the early 1900's a young man named Otto Rohwedder overheard a familiar complaint among housewives: slicing bread was burdensome, time-consuming, and sometimes even dangerous. Otto pondered, what if there was a machine that could slice bread?

Otto was so moved to create a bread slicing machine he sold his entire jewelry business in 1916 and embarked on a long, painful journey to bring his invention to life.

In 1917 a fire broke out at the factory where Rohwedder was manufacturing his machine. It destroyed his first prototype as well as the blueprints. With the need to get funding again, Rohwedder was delayed for several years in bringing the bread slicer to market.

Finally in 1927 Rohwedder successfully designed a machine that not only sliced the bread but wrapped it. On July 7, 1928, the first loaf of commercially sliced bread was sold. A newspaper ad claimed that the sliced bread was "the greatest step forward in the baking industry since the

invention of bread.” A phrase which soon became a well known saying in the U.S. — **“That’s the greatest thing since sliced bread.”**

Citation: Adapted from Zachary Crockett, "The Invention of Sliced Bread," Priceonomics blog (11-12-14).

Otto Rohwedder, with a great idea, an engineering mind and a passion for a new invention. He sold his jewelry business, invested his own resources, drew up plans and made a machine to slice and wrap bread. He lost it all in a fire that destroyed everything. Undaunted he started all over again and since 1928 the world has sliced bread because Otto Rohwedder was willing to Seize the Day!

God calls people like you and me who have been transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit to Seize the Day, trust God and move forward by faith.

Seizing The Day calls us to actively live out our faith, to identify and recognize opportunities and in the face of challenges, fear, danger, adversity and setbacks move forward by faith!

King Solomon, the wisest man to ever live other than Jesus, understood the importance of making the most of every moment.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 “Whatever your hands find to do, do with all your strength, because there is no work, planning, knowledge, or wisdom in the grave where you are going.” CSB

Cary First in times past has “Seized The Day” and taken bold steps to make sure our campus and facilities were an instrument God could utilize to reach this community with the Good News that Jesus saves.

It has been approximately 40 years since Cary First has made significant improvements, updates or renovations to our facilities.

Today the AD HOC Vision Team along with the CAPITAL FUNDRAISING Team are going to present plans to update and modernize our facilities. Facilities that will help us reach our community in this generation and beyond.

It is time, for Cary First, to once again, Seize the Day, and move forward by faith to the future God has for us.

As we move forward together to advance God's Kingdom we must remember:

This is our Time

This is our Town

This is our Task

As we pray and begin to move forward to the future God has for us it is good to be reminded of **Ephesians 3:20-21** "Now to him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us—21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." CSB