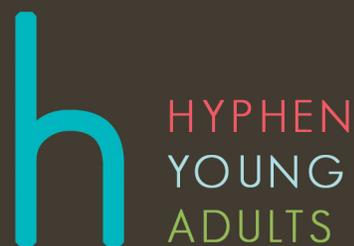


THE TRAGEDY OF WASTED TIME

Jordan Hudspeth



I'll admit it: I'm a control freak. I like to have things together. I'm a planner. I've managed to control many outcomes in my life. However, there is one thing I have never been able to control, and that's time. I've tried to save time and buy time, but it doesn't matter what I do, time just keeps ticking by. I try to take pictures, slow things down, and make moments last, but the future keeps becoming the present and the present keeps becoming the past. I'm now twenty-three years old, married, a dog dad, and I'm trying to figure out how I've gotten to this point. I have many wonderful memories, and all of these memories have one thing in common: they all feel like they happened just yesterday.

I'm a young Hyphen, but I'm learning very quickly that time is one of the most precious gifts God has ever given us. We are not guaranteed time, and we're only given a small amount of it; once it's gone it's gone forever. We should rejoice because we've got heaven to look forward to, but we should also realize we've only been given a limited time to make an eternal difference here on earth. The tragedy of wasting time is one of the greatest tragedies of all.

In Psalm 90:12 (NKJV) Moses prayed, "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." I think Moses gave us valuable insight here. He seemed to understand that this life is short, and we should not take it for granted. We've been given this life to make an eternal impact on the souls around us, so let's do all we can to make a difference.

If you're of Hyphen age, I would simply remind you that this is an incredibly important time of your life. Fulfill your potential. Don't take this moment for granted. Pray without ceasing. Bury yourself in the Word of God. Serve. Look for ways in which you can use your life to change eternity. You CAN do great things for God, because you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. And last, be good to your future self, because the person you are tomorrow is going to have to live with the choices you make today.

So as you lay your head on your pillow tonight, thank God for the time He has blessed you with today. And tomorrow as you wake up, wipe the sleep out of your eyes, slip on your Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle slippers, then ask God to help you to make an eternal impact with the day He has given you.