

NOT RIGHT NOW

Proverbs 27:1

Introduction: There is a weakness that all of us suffer from and there are more bad, sad consequences from this weakness than there are good things. Sometimes this "thing" we do has closed doors of success and perhaps brought a lifetime of failure. Sometimes this "thing" we do causes things to go undone. Sometimes it is easy to speak about this "thing" but at the same time it's hard to carry it out. This "thing" we all do sometimes causes us Christians to be unfaithful to the Lord. Even worse, sometimes this "thing" causes people to die without the Lord Jesus Christ and they go to Hell. Also when Christians do this "thing" it often makes their Church a bit lukewarm. This "thing" we all do is used by Satan more than anything else to keep people from doing what the Lord wants. This "thing" all of us do actually has shut the gate to the Kingdom of Heaven and condemned people to the fires of Hell. What is this "thing" all of us do that can be so bad for us? Saying "NOT RIGHT NOW." Putting things off. *"...Boast not thyself of tomorrow, for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth..." "...Go to, ye that say tomorrow, for ye know not what shall be on the morrow."*

"Not right now, maybe later" has been spoken by every one of us at one time or other, and at some time or other saying those words will bring false security and even harm.

I. A MAN NAMED ABSALOM WAS LED TO SAY, "NOT RIGHT NOW, LATER." (2 Samuel 15-18)

1. This man, Absalom, had rebelled against his father, David, who was king.
2. Instead of Absalom running away, his father David, took some people with him and fled.
3. Absalom asked advice from one of his men and the man told Absalom to kill all the soldiers' wives who had taken sides with David and then to go find David and kill him.
4. Absalom then asked advice with another of his men, who was actually a spy from David, and was told to wait a while, gather a larger army and then go after David.
5. Absalom chose to wait and build his army. Meanwhile, David, his father, was also becoming stronger.
6. Finally Absalom, feeling confident now, marched against David but was terribly defeated and when Absalom was running for his life, his long hair got caught in a tree limb and some of David's soldiers killed him as he swung from a tree limb.
 - It is said that on a pile of rocks marking Absalom's grave there is a stone that is inscribed simply:
"TOMORROW"

7. *"...Boast not thyself of tomorrow, for tomorrow may never come...."*

II. A MAN OF STRONG POWER DECIDED TO SAY "NOT RIGHT NOW, MAYBE LATER" (Acts 24)

1. The apostle Paul was in prison and was taken to the court of Felix, governor of Judea.
2. When before Felix, Paul gave his testimony about Jesus and Felix was troubled, he trembled, and was convicted of his sins.

3. Instead of confessing his sins and calling upon Jesus, Felix said to Paul, *"...Go thy way for this time. When I have a convenient season, I will call for thee..."* Telling Paul, not right now, later.
- Felix did hear Paul again, but he never had the same feeling or conviction.
4. Felix never did accept the Lord for when he could have and should have, he said, not right now, maybe later.

III. THERE WAS A RICH MAN WHO MADE PLANS FOR LATER (Luke 12:16-21)

1. This rich man had a good farming year and decided what he was going to do later on.
2. *"...Soul, thou has much goods laid up for many years. Take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry..."*
3. This man boasted of what all the future had in store for him, then God began to speak and said, *"...Thou fool! This night thy soul shall be required of thee - then whose shall those things be which thou has provided?..."*
4. Night came, the next day came and with it came death not all the things the rich man had planned to do. Everything he had was left to someone else. His plans for later on never happened.

CONCLUSION:

1. It is never wise to say "later on" when God says TODAY! Later on may mean saying goodbye to this world, goodbye to your family, goodbye to your church, and even goodbye to God.
2. We know how uncertain life can be. The Bible says that life is like a vapor that appears for just a little while and then it disappears, that life is like a pretty flower as it grows, blooms, and then it withers and dies.
3. We don't need to be thinking that things will be better later on. How many good things were you going to do later, but just never got around to doing them? Tomorrow is either one day ahead or one day behind.
4. Let no one say "Not right now, but later on I'll surrender to Jesus" or "Maybe next Sunday I'll rededicate my life to the Lord," or "I'll talk to the pastor next week." The time is right now!
5. Think about your life - it's all past, it's just a memory, it will never happen again, things can't be redone, past opportunities are gone, all but this very second is but a memory.
6. God has His appointed time and it is RIGHT NOW! Not later on, that's Satan speaking.
7. If you ever planned to do anything for the Lord, do it right NOW.....