

Deane Church w/b Sunday 8th January 2017

Redeeming our time for God's glory

Captain Picard: *Someone once told me that time was a predator that stalked us all our lives. But I rather believe that time is a companion who goes with us on the journey, and reminds us to cherish every moment because they'll never come again. What we leave behind is not as important as how we lived. After all, Number One, we're only mortal.*

Riker [smiling]: *Speak for yourself, sir. I plan to live forever.*

Star Trek: Generations (1994)

1. Not written from a Christian perspective but what do you make of Picard & Riker's takes on time?

Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-22 (NB Ecclesiastes comes just after Psalms & Proverbs in the Bible) The phrase 'under the sun' in Ecclesiastes refers to the place or effects of evil.

2. What might this passage teach us about God?

3. What does it mean to fear God (v14)?

4. How are humans similar (vv18-22) yet significantly different (v11) to other animal species, and how might we demonstrate this difference in our lives today?

5. What might this passage teach us about time and our use of it?

"God has given you exactly the right number of minutes in every day to do everything that he wants you to do."

Advice once given to Terry by a parishioner

¹⁵ *Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,*

¹⁶ *making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.*

Ephesians 5:15-16 (ESV)

6. How do you need to tweak your priorities to fit in with God's plans and purposes for you?

TC 6-i-17