

SKILLS FOR SUCCESS #3 – LIVING BOTH FAST AND SLOW

Sermon by Todd Lester

April 9, 2017

Ecclesiastes 8:6a ...there is a time and a way for everything.

WHEN TO MOVE FAST

1. WHEN GOD TELLS ME TO _____

Mark 1:17-18, Psalm 119:60

2. WHEN I NEED TO ASK OR OFFER _____

Matthew 5:23-24

3. WHEN I FEEL _____

1 Timothy 6:11a, 1 Corinthians 6:18a, 1 Corinthians 10:14

4. WHEN I'VE MADE A _____

Ecclesiastes 5:4

5. WHEN I HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO _____

Proverb 3:27, Ecclesiastes 11:4, John 9:4

6. WHEN GOD OFFERS ME _____

2 Corinthians 6:2b

WHEN TO MOVE SLOW

Proverbs 14:29a (NIV) Whoever is patient has great understanding...

1. WHEN I DON'T HAVE THE _____

Proverbs 19:2, Proverbs 18:13

2. WHEN I'M _____

James 1:19b, Proverbs 14:29

3. WHEN MAKING A _____

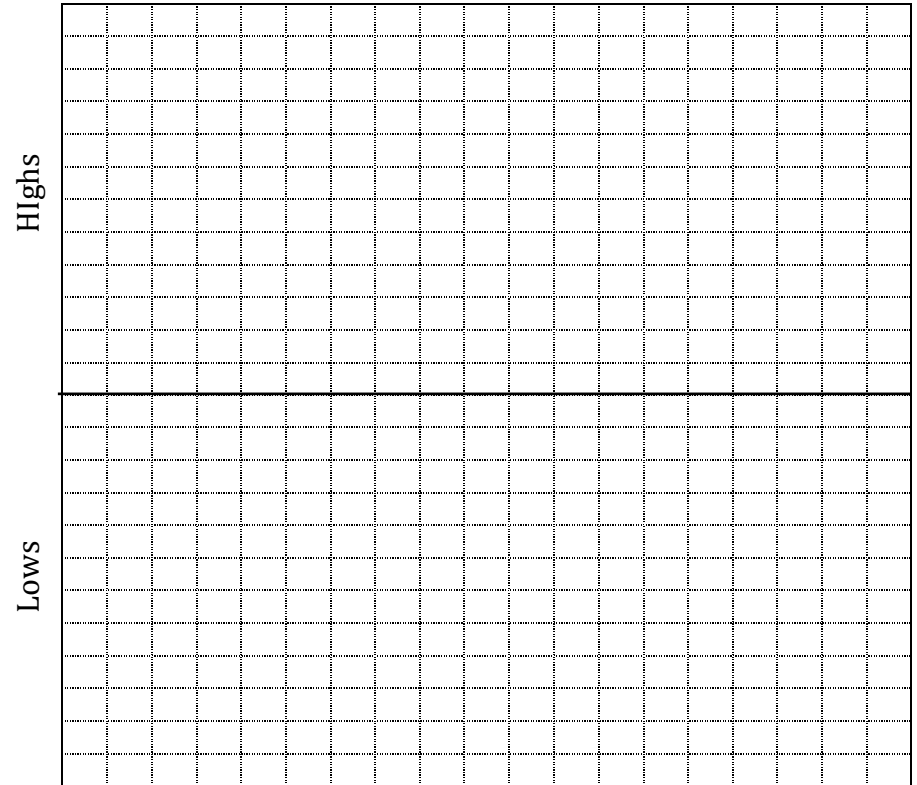
Proverbs 21:29, Proverbs 4:26, Proverbs 22:3

4. WHEN WAITING FOR A SEED I'VE PLANTED _____

Ecclesiastes 3:1,5, 6, Habakkuk 2:3, 1 Kings 8:58

The Rhythm of Life

Todd spoke this week of the rhythm that is part of life, love and leadership. Look over your life so far to try to determine some of those rhythms by charting ups and downs/highs and lows that you've experienced with a line on the graph below. Label significant events and when they happened.



Age/Years

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Ecclesiastes 10:10 (NIV) If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed, but skill will bring success.

SKILL #1: Overcoming Negative People

SKILL #2: Recognizing What's Important

SKILL #3: Sensing the Right Timing

Ecclesiastes 8:6a ...there is a time and a way for everything.

WHEN TO MOVE FAST

1. WHEN GOD TELLS ME TO DO SOMETHING

Mark 1:17-18 Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Psalms 119:60 I will hurry, without delay, to obey your commands.

2. WHEN I NEED TO ASK OR OFFER FORGIVENESS

Matthew 5:23-24 So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.

3. WHEN I FEEL TEMPTED

1 Timothy 6:11a ... so run from all these evil things...

1 Corinthians 6:18a Run from sexual sin!

1 Corinthians 10:14 So, my dear friends, flee from the worship of idols.

4. WHEN I'VE MADE A PROMISE TO GOD

Ecclesiastes 5:4 When you make a promise to God, don't delay in following through, for God takes no pleasure in fools. Keep all the promises you make to him.

5. WHEN I HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO GOOD

Proverb 3:27 Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it's in your power to help them.

Ecclesiastes 11:4 Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant. If they watch every cloud, they never harvest.

John 9:4 We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent us. The night is coming, and then no one can work.

6. WHEN GOD OFFERS ME SALVATION

2 Corinthians 6:2b Indeed, the "right time" is now. Today is the day of salvation.

WHEN TO MOVE SLOW

Proverbs 14:29a (NIV) Whoever is patient has great understanding...

1. WHEN I DON'T HAVE THE FACTS

Proverbs 19:2 Enthusiasm without knowledge is no good; haste makes mistakes.

Proverbs 18:13 Spouting off before listening to the facts is both shameful and foolish.

2. WHEN I'M HURT OR ANGRY

James 1:19b You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.

Proverbs 14:29 People with understanding control their anger; a hot temper shows great foolishness.

Proverbs 15:28 The heart of the godly thinks carefully before speaking; the mouth of the wicked overflows with evil words.

3. WHEN MAKING A MAJOR DECISION

Proverbs 21:29 The wicked bluff their way through, but the virtuous think before they act.

Proverbs 4:26 Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path.

Proverbs 22:3 A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.

4. WHEN WAITING FOR A SEED I'VE PLANTED TO GROW

Ecclesiastes 3:1,5 For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven... A time to plant and a time to harvest... A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones...

Ecclesiastes 11:6 Plant your seed in the morning and keep busy all afternoon, for you don't know if profit will come from one activity or another—or maybe both.

Habakkuk 2:3 This vision is for a future time. It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled. If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed.

1 Kings 8:58 May he give us the desire to do his will in everything and to obey all the commands, decrees, and regulations that he gave our ancestors.

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Icebreaker/Introduction

The 'Rhythm of Life' activity is a way for participants to get thinking about some of the ups and downs we experience in life (and how we handle them). Read the instructions and give time for people to fill in some significant events from their lives. Encourage sharing about their charts and also discuss how people handled some of the difficult times in their lives and how God or His people were a help to them.

Read [Ecclesiastes 3:1-8](#). Todd said that there is a rhythm to life, to love, and to leadership. What are some examples of these rhythms that you think about with this statement? What rhythms or patterns have you seen in your own life or love? (or leadership)

Read and discuss [Galatians 5:16-25 \(NIV\)](#). What does it mean to walk by the Spirit?

WHEN TO MOVE FAST

1. WHEN GOD TELLS ME TO DO SOMETHING

Focuses on [Mark 1:17-18](#), [Psalm 119:60](#)

Do you agree with the statement that delayed obedience is equal to disobedience? Do/Did you look at it that way with your own children?

Todd asked us to consider if there is something that you know God has told you to do and you haven't done it yet. Is there?

2. WHEN I NEED TO ASK OR OFFER FORGIVENESS

Focuses on [Matthew 5:23-24](#)

Discuss Todd's statement that carrying around guilt or resentment hurts you mentally, spiritually and even physically. When have you experienced this? What are some of the physical effects that can come with this?

As Todd asked, is there someone that you need to get right with?

3. WHEN I FEEL TEMPTED

Focuses on [1 Timothy 6:11a](#), [1 Corinthians 6:18a](#), [1 Corinthians 10:14](#)

Describe a situation where you fled from temptation.

Read [1 Corinthians 10:14](#). Todd said anything we give first place in our life can be an idol. What are some examples? (he said car, boat, job, spouse, children). How can we practically know if something in our life is an idol?

4. WHEN I'VE MADE A PROMISE TO GOD

Focuses on [Ecclesiastes 5:4](#)

Is there a promise or commitment to God that you have forgotten or neglected? What steps could you take to fulfill that promise?

Is there a new promise you want to make to Him right now?

5. WHEN I HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO GOOD

Focuses on [Proverb 3:27](#), [Ecclesiastes 11:4](#), [John 9:4](#)

Would you agree that every day there are opportunities for you to do good for someone? How can we become more sensitive to the needs of others?

Todd asked, "What kind act have you been intending to do but haven't?" Why? Could you still act?

6. WHEN GOD OFFERS ME SALVATION

Focuses on [2 Corinthians 6:2b](#)

Why do you think some people delay in making a decision to follow Jesus? Are there valid reasons for waiting?

How should we understand the encouragement to 'count the cost' (see [Luke 14:25-33](#)) before becoming a disciple in light of this point?

WHEN TO MOVE SLOW

1. WHEN I DON'T HAVE THE FACTS

Focuses on [Proverbs 19:2](#), [Proverbs 18:13](#)

Discuss Todd's points about the culture valuing statements like 'be a free spirit,' 'go with your gut,' or 'follow your heart.' Do you find it challenging to consider that 'your heart lies to you all the time'? Is there a difference between an unredeemed and a redeemed heart?

Todd said that we need 'objective sources of truth.' Where do we find these?

2. WHEN I'M HURT OR ANGRY

Focuses on [James 1:19b](#), [Proverbs 14:29](#)

Do you have some strategies for dealing with anger? Do they involve moving slowly?

Do you think that the internet has made people more opinionated or more likely to express it? Has it perhaps changed you? Do we need the wisdom of [Proverbs 15:28a](#) ("The heart of the godly thinks carefully before speaking") more now than ever?

3. WHEN MAKING A MAJOR DECISION

Focuses on [Proverbs 21:29](#), [Proverbs 4:26](#), [Proverbs 22:3](#)

What are some major decisions in life where you waited/went slow? Have you ever made a snap decision where you wished later that you had waited?

Are you facing any big decisions in the near future? How are you planning for them?

4. WHEN WAITING FOR A SEED I'VE PLANTED TO GROW

Focuses on [Ecclesiastes 3:1,5, 6](#), [Habakkuk 2:3](#), [1 Kings 8:58](#)

What kinds of seeds have you planted in your life (Todd mentioned kindness, love, goodness, integrity, anger, gossip) and have you seen a harvest with any of them?

Do you have a goal, dream or vision from God that you are waiting to see come true? Is there something you could do to water this seed?