

OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME

Text: *Galatians 6:10: As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*

Introduction: Opportunity, in its true literal significance, means something standing for an instant at the door of one's life, knocking with sharp, swift stroke; and then — if no answer comes — may pass away into the darkness, refusing to be recalled.

1. There is a man who murdered his opportunity, and his name is King Saul. He deliberately wasted life's priceless opportunity. The first time it knocked at the door of his life, he went out to seek his father's asses and came back an anointed king. Yet, the second time, he miserably murdered the opportunity like many hundreds are doing today. How? By failure to continue in obeying and heeding God's opportunities. King Saul murdered what should have crowned him with immortal blessings and honors.

2. Another man had opportunity and cried out as recorded in **Mark 10:47:**

Mark 10:47: "Jesus, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me."

Jesus stopped, and blind Bartimaeus received a his sight. Opportunity knocked. He answered readily, and he was blessed with sight for the first time.



3. There are those who "just miss opportunity". They seem to have been born into the world a day too late. They spend their whole life in a vain attempt to catch up, but always "too late", for the opportunity has left. Their epitaph might read like this: '*Here lies a man who died a day too soon, because he was born a day too late.*' There is one such character in Scripture like that.

1 Kings 20:40a: And as thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone.

4. A very responsible job was given to this young man, but he goofed — because he got too busy doing unimportant things. The penalty for neglected opportunity cost him his life, the opportunity to get saved, and Heaven itself.

5. Paul warns us to fear, lest we may come short of a promise of entering into God's rest. That is it – just come short of it, just miss it by a hairsbreadth. Result — men lose the prize of this life and of the immortal life to come, also.

6. There are those who live in regret and remorse, as Esau, who chose to eat and did not inherit the blessing. Opportunity came, knocked, but he disregarded it for a meal to satisfy his stomach.



Genesis 25:29-34:

29 And Jacob sod pottage: and Esau came from the field, and he was faint:

30 And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was his name called Edom.

31 And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright.

32 And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me?

33 And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he sware unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob.

34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright.

7. What about your vows to God? Today make them good.
8. Today is your opportunity of being filled with the Spirit. Many of us spend a lot of time preparing for tomorrow, but tomorrow may never come, and we fail to live today.
9. Today is the day to work for Christ — tomorrow may be too late.
10. At the door of a man's soul comes the knocking of the Spirit of God. He came to Felix as Paul was preaching, but Felix missed his opportunity of being saved.
11. Jesus warns us against missing the opportunity today by taking thought of tomorrow and not living today.

Luke 12:20: But God said unto him, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?"

The rich fool lacked discernment of spiritual opportunity to get saved. He shut God out for things. "My farm" was his first call. He was not dishonest, nor a drunkard, nor a gambler, nor immoral. His "*MUST*" was to build new barns to store for the future, but to the Divine call to future life in Heaven he left neglected. Finally, opportunity passed, and the death call came. This fool lived in the *now*, and was lost forever. For God said:



Luke 12:20: "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee."

This is the opportunity for your salvation.

Hebrews 4:7b: . . . Today if ye will hear His Voice, harden not your hearts."

**Why? - Because today is the day of salvation.
Procrastination is the thief of time.**

2 Corinthians 6:2b: . . . behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the Day of Salvation.

**What will you do with this
OPPORTUNITY
of a LIFETIME?**

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