**Opening Scripture**

***Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 AMP***

***[13] When all has been heard, the end of the matter is: fear God [worship Him with awe-filled reverence, knowing that He is almighty God] and keep His commandments, for this applies to every person. [14] For God will bring every act to judgment, every hidden and secret thing, whether it is good or evil.***

**Communion Verses**

***Hebrews 9:11-15 NLT***

***So Christ has now become the High Priest over all the good things that have come. He has entered that greater, more perfect Tabernacle in heaven, which was not made by human hands and is not part of this created world. [12] With his own blood—not the blood of goats and calves—he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever. [13] Under the old system, the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer could cleanse people’s bodies from ceremonial impurity. [14] Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. [15] That is why he is the one who mediates a new covenant between God and people, so that all who are called can receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them. For Christ died to set them free from the penalty of the sins they had committed under that first covenant.***

**Investing In Eternity**

Intro: When we hear the word Investment the first thing that most of us may think of is stocks, bonds, mutual funds, 401K, or lotto tickets. Certainly, these things serve a purpose in this life, but there is one asset that allow of us listening now have at this present moment, this investment is our **Time.**

This is one investment that once we give it, we can’t get it back, at least not in the same way you get returns on financial investments. Therefore, if we take time to pray and seek counsel about our financial investments, how much more important is it to effectively invest our time.

**Quotes about Time:**

Time is money. -Benjamin Franklin

Time waits for no one. – Folklore

Lost time is never found again. – Benjamin Franklin

Time is the most valuable thing a man can spend. – Theophrastus

Time is the wisest counselor of all. – Pericles

The key is in not spending time, but in investing it. – Stephen R. Covey

Time is free, but it’s priceless. You can’t own it, but you can use it. You can’t keep it, but you can spend it. Once you’ve lost it you can never get it back. - Harvey Mackay

Have a good time. Life is too short to get bogged down and be discouraged. You have to keep moving. You have to keep going. Put one foot in front of the other, smile and just keep on rolling. - Kobe

**Transitional point: If these men had this level of insight about how precious time is in the life that we live...How much more wisdom can we receive from God’s Word regarding how we are to esteem the time we have…**

*Matthew 6:19-21 NLT*

*“Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. [20] Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. [21] Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.*

*Luke 16:9 NIV*

*I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.*

**Point One: Using Your Time, Talent, and Treasure Can Affect Lives Beyond Your Years On This Earth and Alter People’s Eternity**

(Illustrations: Give examples of the types of people that are remembered for their contribution to humanity)

Specific Secular World Examples of Men who invested in the lives of others:

Warwick Dunn-spent 12 seasons with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, has donated 173 homes to single parents through his charity alongside Habitat for Humanity and his foundation has provided over $875,000 in Down Payment Assistance.

Kobe-Mamba Sports Academy (One of many ways touching our world). Below are the posted objectives of the Mamba Sports Academy

Objective 1

To provide underserved communities and individuals with sports programming that enriches their socio-emotional and physical development.

Objective 2

To provide funding for underserved athletes that enable participation in school or league sports.

Objective 3

Create criteria for initial and on-going financial assistance.

Objective 4

To provide funding for programs that offer equal opportunities for young women in sports.

This is just one example of how Kobe impacted the lives of others above and beyond his talent as a basketball player, thus we see the response that we have to his tragic death.

**Do we celebrate the life and mourn the loss of people that live only to indulge their flesh? No. But we do celebrate the lives and mourn the loss of people that have sown into the lives of others**

*Proverbs 10:7 NKJV*

*The memory of the righteous is blessed, But the name of the wicked will rot.*

Spiritual Examples

Expound on the potential impact that every believer can have on our world not just in this life, but for all eternity...this is what makes our work as followers of Christ so impactful because as God uses us to impact lives in tangible way now, we also have The Message of Reconciliation the Gospel of Jesus Christ that will lead men to eternal life in Christ Jesus.

**Point Two: Investing Your Time To Seek & Follow God’ s Will Opens You Up To (Enjoy His Blessing) In This Life and Enjoy Rewards In The Life To Come**

*Mark 10:23-31 NLT*

*Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!” [24] This amazed them. But Jesus said again, “Dear children, it is very hard to enter the Kingdom of God. [25] In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!” [26] The disciples were astounded. “Then who in the world can be saved?” they asked. [27] Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God.”* ***[28] Then Peter began to speak up. “We’ve given up everything to follow you,” he said. [29] “Yes,” Jesus replied, “and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, for my sake and for the Good News, [30] will receive now in return a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property—along with persecution. And in the world to come that person will have eternal life. [31] But many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who seem least important now will be the greatest then. ”***

Expound on v. 28-31, noting that laying aside your allegiance to family and the comforts of this world to follow God, you are then in a place where you can receive God’s abundance.

*Matthew 10:38-39 NASB*

*And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. [39] He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.*

**Point Three: Don’t Become Discouraged If You Think You Have Wasted or Loss Time**

*Joel 2:25-27 NIV*

*“I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten— the great locust and the young locust, the other locusts and the locust swarm— my great army that I sent among you. [26] You will have plenty to eat, until you are full, and you will praise the name of the LORD your God, who has worked wonders for you; never again will my people be shamed. [27] Then you will know that I am in Israel, that I am the LORD your God, and that there is no other; never again will my people be shamed.*

Expound on how it is God’s good pleasure to bring restoration to your life. The only question is will you believe? Will you believe the world that calls you over the hill or will you believe God's Word that declares that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s? (Psalm 103)