

Investing Your Time

Will Rogers, known as “Oklahoma’s Favorite Son,” was born to a Cherokee family in Indian Territory (now part of Oklahoma), and grew up to become a stage and motion-picture actor, vaudeville performer, cowboy, humorist, newspaper columnist and social commentator.

By the mid-1930s, Rogers was hugely popular in the United States, the country’s leading political wit, and the highest paid of Hollywood film stars. He traveled around the world three times, made 71 films and wrote more than 4,000 nationally syndicated newspaper columns.

He died in 1935 with aviator Wiley Post when their small airplane crashed in northern Alaska. He was only 55 years of age when that tragedy occurred. But he understood the need to live life to its fullest.

Rogers was once asked, “If you had only 48 hours to live, how would you spend them?”

The Oklahoma cowboy philosopher replied: “One at a time.”

Such is the reality of time. Every day gives us 86,400 seconds and we must use every one of them as they come, for they will never be seen again.

If you greet each new day as a treasure house to be invested wisely, the journey from Sunday to Saturday turns into an exciting and exhilarating experience. By the same token, if you do not use time, it will end up using you. No matter who you are, where you live or what you do, life is impacted most drastically by what you do with time and what it does with you.

But there is an altogether different dimension of time that only people of faith can ever know. There is a time that no wrist watch can measure, but which itself measures how much abundance people find in life.

Beyond the world’s time there is God’s time. The basic issue is in learning how to tell one kind of time from the other. We must know when to wait and we must know when to move. Only when we are connected with God can we know the difference.

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The Bible has much to say about time and how we use it:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter

