

Too late

When is it too late? To late for what? Let's just have a talk today about getting somewhere a little too late. In high school, it was my experience that you could hand in an assignment a little late. I think that the rule of thumb was that 10% would be knocked off or something like that. As a teenager who cares about 10%. Yet, my first ever university assignment was due in the first week. Whoa, were just getting started. So, I brought it in a day late. What happened? It was rejected! That was a shock. It wasn't that late. I could also say, (the prof did) that late is actually called late no matter the amount of time. Lucky for me, the paper didn't count for much.

However, being late can be troublesome. I haven't bounced a check or a bill very often. The number of electronic checks and balances make it hard for me to do that. Yet, a few times I have dipped into our overdraft because I was a little late transferring funds. The day was right but the time of day was late. I haven't gone to a movie late but the line-up for food tried hard to make me late. Lucky for us, (pre-assigned seats helps) you can't really be late to a movie. I'm never late for church, yet many are. I suppose there are a few things that (being late to) are not going to cost you permanently. Yet, being late to church, work, and other things might become a chronic issue. Things start at a time for a reason.

I preached at a church that wanted me there an hour before the starting time. It seemed fair. Yet, they were a Tamil culture and they don't really start church for about an hour after the start time. Plus, there is community time afterwards. Being late is relative in that church. They gave people space to be late and stay late. It's probably not a good idea to be late to a wedding but it's fine to be late to your own funeral. How do you work around the clock? Are you late to bed or late to work? Do you allow yourself time to be on-time or just a little late?

What does God have to say? Solomon says in Ecclesiastics that there is a time for everything. Yet, in life, we only have the time allotted us. Some call it predestination or fate. Others might think we make or loose time. Someone called Gandalf the Wizard late. He said that Wizards are never late, they arrive precisely when they were supposed to. Then they all laughed. What if God is the dispenser of time? That He brings you into time and out precisely when He meant to? Then it's Gods time you're playing with.

As I get older, I am bothered by time. I am trying not think about it but people around me keep dying. The stars of yesterday are leaving this world one at a time. Now the Queen passed away. Yet, I am still here. I know a young boy who is dying of cancer. Most likely he will have less time than me to make mistakes and find success. I don't walk around afraid of death. With God, death has little meaning. However, I do like my time. With that said, I am trying to make sure I arrive precisely when I meant to, lol!

I am in a job that punishes you for starting early. It's a union thing, don't ask me to explain. Yet, I have witnessed someone being sent home for starting early as I started late. A government job has its perks and its quirks. I come in late to avoid starting early. I love it! Yet, I will be early to the airport for my upcoming trip. Two hours early! Some say it's too much. Yet, I have heard the rumors. I'm arriving early. I have set up our trip to arrive and return to everything early. It's just better for us. We once barley made it to a connecting flight in Chicago. Never again!

Being late is a habit. It's lazy. What it really means is that you're not as invested as you think. If you cared about the thing, you're attending then you would be on time. That might seem harsh but would you be late to a funeral of a loved one? Would you be late to your own wedding? What about an award in your honor? We are early or late depending on the

commitment level. I look at it as an honor thing. Just honor the person or event that asked you to show up at a certain time. Be there early to show respect. People are late paying taxes because they hate it. We usually are late to something we didn't want to do. Yet, at times, people need and expect us to be there on time. Is being on time a you thing or a them thing? Why are you showing up precisely when you meant to?