

Faith Based Reflection on
Punctuality
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There's nothing like showing up on time to let someone know they are valued. Whether it's a meeting, babysitting job, church service or lunch date, when we are punctual, we are really saying, "You are important to me and I will do whatever it takes to be where I am supposed to be when I said I would be there."

Most of the time when we fail to be punctual it is the result of selfishness or misplaced priorities. We know when we need to leave the house in order to be somewhere on time but, thinking we can get just one more thing done before we leave, or spend just a few more minutes sleeping in the morning, we end up being late. Sometimes circumstances beyond our control occur which cause us to be late but usually it is the result of poor planning.

The character quality of punctuality is defined as, "showing esteem for others by doing the right thing at the right time." From the beginning of time, God has always done the right thing at the right time. Throughout Salvation History we find that God has a plan for every moment of every day leading to events and circumstances which will ultimately lead people back to Him.

In Genesis we read that God created the earth in six days and rested on the seventh. From that came our conception of the week. Time itself has always been measured and the way that we use that time is what punctuality is all about.

"In the fullness of time God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law to deliver from the law those who were subject to it." Galatians 4:4

Exactly at the moment God knew it would be best for mankind, He sent His Son to redeem the world. It is through reading scripture, those words in which God reveals Himself to us, praying and heeding the examples of the saints who have gone before us, that we learn how to use our time wisely.

The ultimate use of the time we have here on earth is to spend it knowing, loving and serving God so we can be with Him forever in eternity when our lives here are over. Unfortunately, we sometimes misuse our free will and end up disobeying God. In doing so, we waste the gift of time we have been given. Showing respect for others by being punctual is one way in which we express our desire to follow God, the Master of time!