

‘TIL YOU CAN’T.

INTRO.:

A. Read text: Luke 12:16-21 – vs. 19.

B. Regarding the text:

1. How many times have we vowed to do something and put it off?
 - 1) Sometimes the opportunity is gone.
 - 2) Then we regret our procrastination.
2. Our text speaks of a man who did just that!
3. “I will tomorrow” is extremely dangerous.
 - 1) A song I heard this past week: ‘Til you can’t.
 - 2) The message: Opportunities can be lost! Do what you can – ***‘Til you can’t!***
 - 3) “If you're gonna love somebody, Hold 'em as long and as strong and as close as you can - 'Til you can't...” and “So take that phone call from your momma and just talk away, 'Cause you'll never know how bad you wanna 'til you can't someday.”
4. Let's apply ‘Til you can't to spiritual matters.
 - 1) **Heb. 3:13** “But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”
 - 2) **2 Cor. 6:2** “... behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

DISCUSSION: IN OUR LESSON WE OBSERVE...

I. A SOLEMN WARNING (PRO. 27:1).

- A. Pro. 27:1** “Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.”
- B. How can we boast for something we do not have? Dangerous to try!**
- C. Many put off obeying the gospel. Things can happen. Things can get in the way!**
1. You may lose all desire be obedient.
 2. Some change their mind – outside influences.
 - 1) **Eph. 4:19** “Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.”
 - 2) **1 Tim. 4:2** “having their conscience seared with a hot iron.”
 3. Tomorrow you may be ***physically unable*** to do what is right (**James 4:14** “For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”)
 4. The ***Lord may return*** (**Matt. 25:13** “Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.” **Rev. 16:15** “Behold, I come as a thief.”)
- D. We must be ready every day (Matt. 24:44** “Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.”)

E. You see, we have today. You can obey – ***Til you can't!***

II. MANY HAVE DISMISSED THAT WARNING.

A. The ten virgins (**Matt. 25:1-13**).

1. Relate the parable.
 - 1) Five were wise (**Vs. 4-7**).
 - a. They had made preparations (planned ahead).
 - b. The bridegroom came and they were ready for Him.
 - 2) Five were unwise (**Vs. 8-13**).
 - a. They did not take oil for their lamps.
 - b. The bridegroom came and they were not prepared.
 - c. Waiting till the last minute was their ruin.
 - d. "They could – ***Til they couldn't!***"
 - 3) Which are we like?
2. Many will meet the Lord unprepared (**Matt. 7:21-23** "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord...")
3. Preparation is necessary – ***You can prepare – Til you can't!***

B. The Great Supper: **Luke 14:16-24 (16-20)**.

1. One said, "I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused" (**Vs. 18**). Let me wait!
2. Another said, "I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused" (**Vs. 19**). I will later!
3. The 3rd said, "I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come" (**Vs. 20**). I know I should and will, later!
4. Notice **verse 17**: "And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are **now** ready."
 - 1) NOW ready. Not later.
 - 2) Note **vs. 24**: None shall taste of my supper.
5. The invitation is for all (**Matt. 11:28** "Come unto me...")
 - 1) Answering the call is our responsibility!
 - 2) You can come to the feast – ***Til you can't!***

C. What about Felix (**Acts 24:24-25**).

1. Note: He heard the truth. He believed and trembled. But he refused to obey.
2. He was counting on a time he did not have.
 - 1) "... when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee" **Vs. 25**.
 - 2) ... I will choose my own time --- LATER!
3. Obedience is necessary – ***You can obey the Lord– Til you can't!***

D. King Agrippa (**Acts 26:27-28**).

1. On that day he could have obeyed what he knew to be true (**vs. 27**).
2. Almost, is no better than Agrippa. An "almost" Christian is lost.

III. CONCLUSION:

A. Many that I love are waiting for a "convenient season."

1. Some say, "I'm young, I have lots of time."

2. Others say, “I know the truth and one day I will obey the gospel.” Or “I will repent and come home.”

B. All should realize:

1. Today is the day of salvation, TOMORROW may be too late.
2. **2 Cor. 6:2** “For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

IV. APPEAL:

A. The question is, “What will you do today?”

1. To obey the gospel (H/B/R/C/B/be faithful). You can – “Til you can’t.
2. To repent. You can – **‘Til you can’t.**

B. No waiting for tomorrow – Tomorrow may be too late.

C. Today you can. Don’t wait **‘Til you can’t.**

Poem:

He was going to be all that a mortal could be – **TOMORROW**.

No one would be better than he – **TOMORROW**.

Each morning he stacked up the letters he would write – **TOMORROW**.

It was too bad indeed that he was too busy to see the ill, but he promised to do it all **TOMORROW**.

The greatest of workers this man would have been – **TOMORROW**.

The world would have known him had he ever seen **TOMORROW**.

But the fact is he died and faded from view, and all that was left when living was through,

Was a mountain of things he intended to do **TOMORROW**.

A Little Boy's Story (Torey). True story.

1. A little boy asked me, "What if I was riding my bike and got hit by a car and died? Would I go to heaven? What if Jesus came? MY REPLY, "Well children are not yet old enough to be lost eternally. So, if something happened to you, or Jesus came you would go to heaven. But when you get older you would need to obey the gospel and defeat the devil." --- I will never forget his answer, "Daddy, I hope Jesus comes right now."
2. How wise we would be if we all had such innocence.