

HICKORY DICKORY DOCK



WARM UP

In 1967, experts predicted that by the turn of the century, technology would have taken over so much of the work we do, that the average American work week would be only 22 hours long, and we would work only 27 weeks a year. As a result, one of our biggest problems would be deciding what to do with all our leisure time. In reality, people are now working longer hours and experiencing greater financial pressures.



BACKGROUND

Dr Richard Swenson wrote a book in which he discusses one of the major maladies of our time - anxiety and stress. He says that people are just plain overloaded. We're overloaded with -

- **Commitments.** We've committed ourselves to go here and there, to take part in this activity and that social function.
- **Possessions.** Our closets are full and our garages are overflowing. We've gone into debt to pay for the things we "simply must have".
- **Work.** We get up early, fight traffic and experience intolerable working conditions to pay for all those possessions that we've accumulated.
- **Information.** As a doctor, Swenson has to read 220 articles a month just to keep up with all the changes in his profession. And now with the internet there's an information superhighway, plus texts and emails.

READ Ephesians 5:15-17



QUESTIONS

1. From the transactions on our bank statements what do we discover our priorities to be? What are some of the tensions you experience in putting God first in terms of finances?

2. Where are you experiencing overload - financially, or in time commitments?

3. What stops you from making changes?



IT'S TIME FOR PRAYER

MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER

As a Promise Keeper I am committed to supporting the mission of my church by honouring and praying for my pastor and by actively giving my time and resources.



Even in the early church women were stepping up! What can you do to serve the Lord?

CONSIDER THIS

As a young man, James Kraft had a desire to be the most famous manufacturer and salesman of cheese in the world.

He began as a young fellow with a buggy pulled by a pony named Paddy. Kraft would load his wagon and drive down the streets of Chicago to sell his cheese. As the months passed, he began to despair because he was not making any money, in spite of his long hours and hard work. One day he stopped and began to talk to his pony, saying "Paddy, there is something wrong... I am afraid we have things turned around. Our priorities are not where they ought to be. Maybe we ought to serve God and place him first in our lives". Kraft then drove home and made a covenant that for the rest of his life he would first serve God and work as God directed.

Many years later Kraft said, "I would rather be a layman in the North Shore Baptist Church than to head the greatest corporation in America. My first job is serving Jesus".

WRAP UP

"Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, those women who work hard in the Lord. Greet my dear friend Persis, another woman who has worked very hard in the Lord."
Romans 16:12