



CCN WEEKLY SOLUTIONS SERIES
THE WEEK OF APRIL 9, 2007



Hope: Is Time on Your Side?

Featuring
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Best-selling co-author of Boundaries series,
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I. Introduction

Understanding the role of time in moving from point A to point B [0230]

II. Two common misconceptions about time

“Time heals all things”

- Time *by itself* doesn’t heal things

“If I have been screwed up for X years, it will take X years to change”

- Healing often takes less time than one spent in the bad place

III. A timeline of growth

1. “Bad Time”

- “Wasted” time, time of no change, of staying stuck
- This seems to be a universal experience

2. “Cut it down!”

- Also universal: we condemn ourselves
- Or we cut down others, to keep from feeling the pain
- A merry-go-round: failure-guilt-failure-guilt... because nothing changes

3. Enter the Advocate—Jesus

- The Advocate says, “Leave it alone”
- We need a safe space to be loved and accepted as we are before we can be different or get better
- We need not to be condemned/beat up/made “bad” for needing to grow

⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. ⁷So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’ ⁸“‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”
—Luke 13:6-9

IV. Ingredients of growth: Grace, truth, time

1. Digging around

- Go below the surface to get to the root of the problem

2. Fertilizer

- Something from outside that a plant needs but can't produce on its own
- A person may need teaching, support, building up, modeling, coaching

3. Another year

- More time for digging and fertilizer to work

4. Digging around is done by truth: teaching us, showing us a mirror

5. Fertilizer is grace: unmerited favor

- Grace doesn't do away with God's standards but empowers us to live up to them

6. Another year: A collection of seasons—sowing, growth, harvest, reading for the next growth step

V. How time works in our lives: Matthew 25:14-30

To invest is to place something in the process of time, to use it over time

- Put to use over time, the 5 becomes 5x: when it was used, it grew
- But it must be used where there's grace and truth

The guy with just one talent buried it in the darkness, and the one becomes... one

Where we're not gifted, we're afraid

- The confident kid, gifted at connecting, makes lots of connections
- The un-confident kid buried the heart in the ground, may be detached and unavailable for 40 years
- But when it's dug up and put to use, recovery is faster than you thought

How to do this? There's no right answer

- The way isn't as important as the ingredients:
 - New things put in
 - Old things dug up
 - Heart invested over time: a process

Next Week on “Solutions”

Risk Factor

Resources:

BOOKS:

Changes that Heal
By Dr. Henry Cloud
www.zondervan.com

Integrity
By Dr. Henry Cloud
www.cloudtownsend.com

How People Grow
By Dr. Henry Cloud
www.zondervan.com



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