

HOW TO TIME TRAVEL



HOW TO CHANGE THE PAST, LIVE IN THE
PRESENT, AND DIRECT YOUR FUTURE

HOW TO TIME TRAVEL

SIMON L SMITH + REEL PARABLES



1

TIME TRAVEL

I love a good time travel story.

Heck, I've often loved a bad time travel story. There is just something about time travel that is fun. They are fun to watch, fun to talk about, and fun to tear apart.

Seriously, in the original Terminator, how is John Conner even in the future, to send his dad back in time, if his dad was not yet in the past to get his mom pregnant so he can be in the future?

That gives me a headache...



Anyway, today I want to talk about time travel and how it affects our past, our present and our future!

HOW TO TIME TRAVEL



HOW TO CHANGE THE PAST

2

TIME TRAVEL & THE PAST

What would you go back and change if you could travel back in time?

What mistake would you fix or prevent? I know what I would do and every single one involves a relationship.

What about you? I bet (almost) every mistake you would go back and fix involves a relationship.

So, go back in time.

Confess.

Forgive.

Confront.

Make the first move.

Make the first call.

Does the relationship need to be restored? Make the first move.

Maybe the relationship doesn't need to be restored. Maybe it was abusive. In that case forgive.

Often the person we need to forgive or let off the hook is ourselves.

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself to have attained this. Instead I am single-minded: Forgetting the things that are behind and reaching out for the things that are ahead, (Philippians 3:13)

The past is past.

What happened - or what didn't happen - is done.

That said, the past can still have a grip on us. Again, make the first move.

*So confess your sins to one another and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great effectiveness.
(James 5:16)*

Did you hurt someone?

It is not too late to make amends.

Forgive them or forgive yourself.

You may not be able to change the past, but you can change how it affects your present.

So yeah, in a way you can affect the past and change your present.

HOW TO TIME TRAVEL



HOW TO LIVE IN THE PRESENT

3

TIME TRAVEL & THE PRESENT

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding. Acknowledge him in all your ways, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

That is my single favorite verse on purpose. Notice how simple it is:

- Trust in the Lord
- Don't trust in yourself
- Acknowledge Him (as in obey)
- He will make your path straight

Obey God and He will make your path straight.

Notice he will not put you on a new path!

This path you are on - this life - even though it is shaped as it is from your past, is your path. God won't take you off of this path and put you on another.

Instead He will make this path straight!

Yes, God will use your life, your story, yes, even your past mistakes, for His glory!

He will make your path straight when you obey him.

And get this - He has told us what to do. Read Paul and Peter.

- Husbands - Love your wife like Christ loved the Church (sacrificially).
- Wives - Submit to your husbands
- Parents - Don't exasperate your kids and raise them to love God.
- Kids - Obey and honor your parents.
- Masters (Employers) - Treat your workers well, and as fellow heirs of Christ and equal in God's sight.
- Slaves (Employees) - Obey your boss and do your job for God, not for man.

I know, easy saying, hard doing. But God has told us what he expects.

Remember, God knows you will not always do this. Don't forget I John.

But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous, forgiving us our sins and cleansing us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar and his word is not in us. (I John 1:9-10)

Will you fail? Yes.

Will you sin? Yep.

God knows, loves you anyway (Romans 5:8).

Confess, be cleansed, keep going.

HOW TO TIME TRAVEL



HOW TO DIRECT YOUR FUTURE

4

TIME TRAVEL & THE FUTURE

What would you do if you knew the future? How would your life - and your decisions - be different if you knew what the future held?

Guess what?

God Knows the Future. And we know God. We know the guy who knows the future.

We trust the One who knows the future (see Time Travel and the Present).

Oh yeah, not only does God know the future, but God wins.

Be bold. Be faithful. The One we follow is the one who wins.

For I know what I have planned for you,' says the Lord. 'I have plans to prosper you, not to harm you. I have plans to give you a future filled with hope (Jeremiah 29:11)

Yeah, I know this was not written to you or to me. But, I do believe that the point God made does indeed apply to us!

Read the rest of this passage and notice what God says:

- When you call out to me and come to me in prayer, I will hear your prayers.
- When you seek me in prayer and worship, you will find me available to you.
- If you seek me with all your heart and soul, I will make myself available to you.

Call out to God.

Pray to - talk with - God.

Seek him with all your heart and all of your soul and all of your might. He will be there for you.

Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and make your hearts pure, you double-minded. (James 4:8)

Want to change the future? Do the right thing today. Good relationships don't happen by accident. Do the right thing today. Plant that "good relationship" today and it will blossom in the future.

Want that new/different job? What do you need to do today to make that happen in the future?

The future is coming. And, to some degree, you can shape it today. Just remember that God is in charge, not you. So how do these two things work together?

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into this or that town and spend a year there and do business and make a profit." You do not know about tomorrow. What is your life like? For you are a puff of smoke that appears for a short time and then vanishes. You ought to say instead, "If the Lord is willing, then we will live and do this or that." But as it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. So whoever knows what is good to do and does not do it is guilty of sin. (James 4:13-17)

Do good.

Obey God.

Trust the One who knows - and controls - the future.



5

NOW WHAT?

Hi, I'm Simon Smith. I'm a father, a teacher, a writer, and the author of *Sharing God's Story with Disney's Frozen*. I love God, I love movies, and I love when the two interact. When they do, I call them Reel Parables and then use them to share God's story!

I've used movies to share God's story for years. First with my own kids, then at Church and AWANA, and now in our Boy Scout troop. I've even shared God's story with movies while teaching in Cuba, India, Mexico, the Philippines, and Uganda.

I now want to share God's story with you and show you how you can share God's story with your kids.

Much like Jesus often did, I use stories, in my case movies (Reel Parables), to teach the Bible and to share God's story. While others use specific scenes as teaching or sermon illustrations, I typically use the whole movie – the whole story – to teach God's story.

Reel Parables is more than just movie-based Bible studies, think of Reel Parables as a different kind of Christian movie review. You can find out more on my [Start Here](#) page.

Purpose

My purpose for Reel Parables is to share God's story with movies. Specifically, it is my desire to:

- Educate and Encourage believers through God's story.
- Engage the world with God's story.
- Equip the Church to do the same.

I don't intend to give you moralistic movie reviews or recommendations. I use both Plugged In and Movieguide when I want that type of information. Instead, it is my sincerest prayer that Reel Parables will encourage you in your own personal story with Christ and equip you to share that story with others.

I have a BA in Pastoral Theology from Southeastern Bible College (94) and an MBA from the University of Phoenix (05). I have worked for a Fortune 20 company since 1997, spending most of that time as a training developer and/or a corporate trainer. Before that, I worked at a local computer and software training company. As you can see, I love teaching.

During this time in the corporate world I have also been a part-time youth pastor, a part-time singles pastor, and an AWANA Cubbies director.

My wife, Ericka, and I married in 1990 while still poor Bible college students and I wouldn't go back and change a thing. During this adventure we've had five kids, lost one to brain cancer, and still consider each other our best friend. We currently live in a suburb North of Dallas, Texas, where we have home schooled all of our children.

In my free time, I enjoy movies (duh!), concerts, reading, Scouts with my youngest son, dog training with my youngest daughter, and camping with my family. I am a member of Trinity Bible Church in Richardson, Texas, where I volunteer with the video ministry. I also teach AWANA's Trek (7th and 8th grade boys & girls) Arapaho Road Baptist Church.

You can easily find me on [e-mail](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Pinterest](#), and [Instagram](#).

And be sure to check out our new [Start Here](#) and [About](#) pages!

Until next time, – God bless.

Simon L Smith

