



Retirement Devotional

**Biblical Wisdom For
Life After Work**

By Robert Laura

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Dedication

This book would not be possible without the love and support of my best friend and amazing wife Amie, and our wonderful children. I love you Amie, Connor, Ava, Lucas, and Drake. Words cannot express what you mean to me and how blessed I feel to have you in my life.

Table of Contents

Introduction	i
Saving The Best For Last.....	2
Retirement Fertilizer	4
The Dark Side Of Retirement	6
Retirement Decisions	8
Retirement Focus	10
Week 1 Summary & Reflection.....	12
Understanding Your Role	14
Faithful Friends	16
Retirement Setbacks	18
Family Challenges.....	20
Career Versus Calling	22
Week 2 Summary & Reflection.....	24
Solid Foundation	26
Flavor Of Life.....	28

Retirement Glory 30

Removing Stones..... 32

Retirement’s Only Guarantee 34

Week 3 Summary & Reflection 36

Stewardship In Retirement 38

Patched-up Retirement, 40

Calculated Retirement..... 42

Lost & Found..... 44

Retirement Sin 46

First Place Retirement..... 48

Week 4 Summary & Reflection 50

About the Author 52

Introduction

Mark 8:22-25 is the ideal analogy for this devotional. According to the Gospel, *Jesus came to Bethsaida where a blind man begged to be healed. Jesus led the blind man out to the village, spit on his eyes and then put his hands on him. Then he asked, "Do you see anything?" and the man replied he could see but not clearly. Once more Jesus placed his hands on the man and his eyes were open and he could see clearly.*

My hope with this devotional is that God not only places his hands on you during this retirement journey, but that He also helps you see clearly the plans He has in place for you in retirement. Additionally, just as Jesus could have healed the man the first-time, He placed his hands on the man, but instead, he revealed his new future gradually, so he could see God's work in progress.

So too, is the case for life in retirement. Everything may not be clear and easy to see or understand at first, but gradually and over time you will adapt, and adjust well if your focus is on the Lord and storing up treasures for Heaven. To that point I have opted to focus this devotional on the wisdom contained in the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

I wanted to step out of the box and avoid using the more traditional means of relying on Proverbs and Psalms for Biblical wisdom. Furthermore, I don't think we need to mention silver crowns or old age to help new, existing and

future retirees see retirement from a completely different perspective than ever before.

The book was designed so that it could be used as a personal devotional as well as a four-week group study. In both cases, my goal was to illustrate that Jesus's ministry is just as relevant to life after work today as it was for everyday life 2,000 years ago.

In addition to insights from specific scriptures, one of the most important things I have ever learned about retirement came from a mentor of mine who I asked to read my first retirement book. As you might expect, I was hopeful he would find it eye-opening and shower me with positive feedback and compliments. Which he did, for the first few minutes of our review meeting. Then he said, "The only problem with your book is that you make it seem like retirement is the ultimate destination but it's not, getting into Heaven is."

That comment changed my life forever, and it's become one of my missions! To make sure people realize retirement isn't the Holy Grail or ultimate destination. Getting into Heaven is. That's something I don't want anyone to see or figure out too late. So, whether you purchased this devotional yourself or were given it as a gift, you won't find advice on the next best stock tip or the ideal asset allocation model here. Instead, my focus will be helping you develop a God-centered plan that prepares you to hear the words, "*Well done my good a faithful servant.*"

Day 1: Saving The Best For Last

“When the master of ceremonies tasted the water that was now wine, not knowing where it had come from (though, of course, the servants knew), he called the bridegroom over. “A host always serves the best wine first,” he said. “Then, when everyone has had a lot to drink, he brings out the less expensive wine. But you have saved the best until now! John 2:9-10

Jesus had a profound way of changing things up. He altered ideas, norms, lives, and I believe in this example, also paved the way to get people thinking differently about the plans He has in store for them in retirement.

As the story around Jesus’s first miracle unfolds, we are made aware that it was a common practice at weddings during this time to serve the best wine first and then bring out the lesser quality alcohol later, after guests were feeling lively and their senses were dulled.

In a similar way, it’s common for people to assume that their best and most productive years were the earlier ones. When they were in school or building their career. But nothing could be further from the truth. God always wants you to be a light, the salt of the earth, and vessel for change.

Retirement offers believers the opportunity to slow-down and remove much of the noise the outside or secular world

can create and to hone-in on the plans God has for you during this next phase of life.

That means not holding anything back or serving in a lesser way. This is a time of life that can be filled with hope, personal growth, and transformation... making it the perfect time to bring out your best and use your God-given skills and talents to expand His kingdom in fresh and exciting ways.

Develop a God-centered mindset for retirement by praying, *“Lord teach me to tend to my retirement phase better, by helping weed out unhealthy relationships, distractions, and activities. Help me to properly feed and water my spirit with your word!”*



Day 2: Retirement Fertilizer

Then Jesus told this story: “A man planted a fig tree in his garden and came again and again to see if there was any fruit on it, but he was always disappointed. Finally, he said to his gardener, ‘I’ve waited three years, and there hasn’t been a single fig! Cut it down. It’s just taking up space in the garden.’ “The gardener answered, ‘Sir, give it one more chance. Leave it another year, and I’ll give it special attention and plenty of fertilizer. If we get figs next year, fine. If not, then you can cut it down.’”

Luke 13:6-9

As you enter retirement, it’s more important than ever to not only assess the soil around you but to also dig down and take a look at the roots because the key ingredient to bearing fruit in retirement is a strong relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

People can end up being planted into retirement without any fertilizer. They assume their life will be fertile after they stop working simply because they reach a certain age or have enough money. But the soil around them, in terms of relationships, health, identity, and purpose may not be ready for them to fully blossom. This can inevitably cause them to wilt or yield less during their initial transition.

This is important to point out because everything can initially seem okay when you first make the retirement transition.

After all, when flowers are cut and placed in a vase, they can look healthy and even continue to bloom for a short period of time.

But they don't stay strong or come back fully year after year if they are not firmly rooted in a strong and secure way. True growth in retirement takes place over time and requires us to develop new habits and routines that reflect our spiritual beliefs and values.

It's time to dig down and pray, *“Lord I want to be rooted in You and use Your word as fertilizer to guide my daily life and impact throughout retirement.”*



Day 3: Dark Side Of Retirement

“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry. During that time the devil came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread.” Matthew 4:1-3

I would love to tell you that God is the only one who has plans for your retirement, but that’s not the case. Major life changes like retirement can be an open door for the Devil to do his work. Satan loves to use change to disrupt your life.

In particular, the first few months or honeymoon phase can be the perfect time for Satan to set up camp. He seeks to encourage you to do nothing. To just relax. He says that you don’t need to reach out to former co-workers for a few months, that watching a lot of TV is okay and that working out and eating healthier can wait until later. He helps you rationalize that you just do what you want when you want, and that creates division between what God wants and what you want.

It may feel good for the first week or two and that’s not to say, you don’t deserve a little R&R after 30-40 years of work or some time to process your thoughts and emotions about this transition. However, don’t let Satan slip in and take root with your idle mind and hands (see Proverbs 6:27).

It's also worth pointing out that Jesus wasn't tempted inside the temple or at Baptism, he was tempted when he was tired, hungry, thirsty, and alone, or when he was most vulnerable. The devil will use the same approach with us and he is constantly looking for an entry point and retirement can be an easy one.

Stay on guard of your heart by praying, *“Heavenly Father, help keep me aware and alert to Satan’s many temptations and allow me to use your word as a sword in spiritual battles.”*



About The Author



Robert Laura is a pioneer in the spiritual planning and psychology of retirement. He is a four-time best-selling author, nationally syndicated columnist, and recognized presenter at retirement focused

conferences across the country.

His work has reached millions with over 800 retirement articles and seven books including *Retirement Roots and The Retirement Devotional*. In addition to his own writings, he frequently appears in major business media outlets such as the Wall Street Journal, USA Today, CNBC, MarketWatch, New York Times, and more.

As a former social worker turned money manager and author, he has found that retirement is among the most fascinating, yet least understood, phases of life... particularly from a Biblical perspective.

As a result, he educates individuals, couples, groups, organizations and leaders on the need to develop a comprehensive retirement plan that puts God first, rather than money. In other words, to focus on Salvation, rather than savings.

Robert is also the founder of the Wealth & Wellness Group and the RetirementProject.org. He holds several

designations including Certified Kingdom Advisor, Accredited Asset Management Specialist, Certified Mutual Fund Counselor, Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor, and Certified Professional Retirement Coach.

He is married to his amazing wife Amie, and together they have a blended family of four remarkable children: Connor, Ava, Luke, and Drake

Robert enjoys connecting with his readers. You are welcome to reach out to him personally at rl@robertlaura.com

Next Steps

Check out Robert's interactive, 6-part video series, where he helps individuals, couples, and groups develop a Christian Plan for everyday life in retirement. It is available at RetirementRoots.org as well as RightNowMedia.com