

# **LESSON IN LIVING**

## **PROMPTNESS BRINGETH BLESSINGS**

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**Promptness is one of those Happy Habits we like to speak of. What are some of the blessings promptness brings? Here are four:**

- 1. Promptness establishes TRUST.**
- 2. Promptness indicates DEPENDABILITY.**
- 3. Promptness connotes RESPECT for the time of others.**
- 4. Promptness is a sign of good BREEDING.**

**What are some of the REASONS we may have developed the habit of being late? Here are four:**

- 1. INTERRUPTIONS which have interfered.**
- 2. Lack of PLANNING ahead.**
- 3. Not allowing enough time to PREPARE.**
- 4. Not allowing enough time to TRAVEL.**

**Have we noticed it's usually the same people who are tardy? And to the same degree? Sixty years ago, when I first moved to Arizona and became involved outside of my private family life, I was usually 10 minutes late to affairs. When I analyzed the reasons, I found that I did not allow enough time for interruptions and travel. Our town was small and it only took 10 minutes to travel to my appointments and thus I was usually late to that degree.**

**I began to correct this habit by timing my activities. If it took 30 minutes to groom, I allowed myself an hour. If it took 10 minutes to travel, I allowed myself 20 minutes. The telephone was no longer allowed to interrupt my schedule; it became my servant instead of my master. I jarred myself into reality by asking myself what changes I would make if I were:**

- 1. The person in CHARGE of the affair.**
- 2. The PILOT of a commercial airliner.**
- 3. The TEACHER of a school class.**
- 4. The SPEAKER at a large gathering.**

**Promptness is indeed a blessing. Mastering our time is wonderful. Try it, you will like it!**

*This was written in 2004 when Elma was 84 years old. Lessons in Living are gleaned from her experiences at Milano Music Center, as a member of the National Speakers Association, the Mesa City Council and as a wife and mother. The entire Lesson in Living series may be found on [elma@lintonmilano.com](mailto:elma@lintonmilano.com).*

