

It was my very first W-2 job--a *real* job. At 16, and a waitress at JB's Big Boys, I was one of the opening staff for this new local restaurant. Because all of the wait staff was new, they brought in a seasoned trainer to work with us. She was mature and brought a cool and gentle seriousness to her work, and she had the warmest smile. I was impressed at how quickly she accomplished tasks while appearing at ease. Oh, I really wanted to do an outstanding job. I waited tables with earnest, putting my cheeriest face into every task. I employed a strong work ethic, because I wanted to succeed and be the best possible waitress I could be. So, I picked up the pace when it became busy, hurrying back and forth to the drink station to prepare sodas and deliver them, back and forth to the kitchen area to place orders and pick up orders to deliver to tables. I was always running, rarely slowing my pace; we faced dinner rushes that kept us hustling. I hadn't really learned the groove, but I was certainly willing to keep training and improving my skills. One day, as the rush tapered and we were able to catch our breath, the trainer pulled me aside to give me some advice she said would "help me improve." I will never forget her words. "Honey, you need to make your steps count." She explained that I should, when heading to the kitchen, gather many things that needed to land in the kitchen. If I was coming from the drink station, I should gather all I might need to take it to its proper place. Her words were far more important to me than she probably realized, for they've become a way of life for me. *Make your steps count.*



This reminds me to think about my tasks, to make the most of my time. Truly, I don't know what tomorrow holds, so I should be prudent about the things that I allow to consume my time. I love the wisdom in Psalm 90:12 "So teach *us* to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom." (NKJ) Making the most of my minutes is a lifestyle choice. So, I should examine the steps I take and the things I do with my time. Ephs. 5:15 reminds me, "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise." (NKJ) I certainly want to walk as a wise one! Paul spoke about this, admonishing the believers to take care of those areas that could draw them away. His words help me to consider carefully those things that attract my attention. Ephesians 5:15,16 "Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil." (NASB) This scripture uses the word *wise* when addressing a close examination of the things that take my attention and time. Rick Warren said, "Time is your most precious gift, because you only have a set amount of it." At the end of the day as I talk to God, I need to reflect on how I spent my time. Was it wise? I want to know that *I made my steps count.*

--Linda Dunlap