

Sermon Notes

The Moment - Gal 4:4

December 6, 2020

I. Introduction

- a. amazing how long one minute of silence is... and how short one minute of enjoyment can be... lots of things to do... why did we just waste 1-minute doing nothing... to recognize one moment in time can have great significance... [pray](#)...

19 days till Christmas. 456 hours. 27,360 minutes. 1,614,600 seconds.

II. The Moment

- a. ever thought about how absolutely essential [good timing](#) is in life...
Eccl 3:1-11... "for everything there is a season... a time for every activity under heaven... time to be born and time to die... time to plant and time to harvest... time to cry and time to laugh... time to grieve and time to dance... time to keep and time to throw away... time to love and time to hate... time for war and time for peace..."
- b. good timing is everything... don't plant flowers in December... don't paint house in January... don't go swimming at Poinsett in February... crucial in sports... between QB and WR... PG and C... 2B and SS... miss by 1 second and you mess up...
- c. what happens if you're 1-minute late for flight... kids 1-minute late for bus... turn your head for 1-minute and 3-year old is headed to college... think 1-minute or even 1-second can't make a difference... that's not quite true...
Psa 46:1... "God is our refuge and strength... ever present help in trouble..."
Psa 121... "He who watches over you does not sleep... He keeps you from harm..."
Prov 2:11... "wise choices will watch over you and keep you safe..."
Prov 4:6... "do not forsake wisdom... she will protect you... and watch over you..."
- d. easy to get caught in busyness... miss small moments... miss special things that go by so quickly... wonder of a child... beauty of snowfall... joy of family... slow down... Christmas is [full of moments](#) and God doesn't want you to miss any...
Isa 46:10... "be still and know that I am God... I will be honored..."
Jer 2:25 **MSG**... "slow down... take deep breath... what's hurry... why wear out..."
Matt 11:28-30... "come to Me all you who are weary... I will give you rest..."
Luke 10:38-42... "worried and upset by many details... just one thing is required..."
- e. good ideas are not always God ideas... but God ideas are always good ideas... same holds true for timing... [God's timing](#) is always good timing...
1Chron 12:32... "leaders... understood the times... knew best course of action..."
Esther 1:13... "normal for king to consult wise men who understood the times..."
Eccl 3:11... "He has made everything beautiful in its appropriate time..."
- f. timing is everything... important we do things in God's timing... always perfect...
Psa 18:30-32... "His way is perfect... He makes my way perfect..."
Gal 4:4... "when the time came... God sent His Son... to redeem those under law..."

A wizard is never late, nor is he early, arrives precisely when he means to. Gandalf

- g. at just the right time... God sent His Son... this is the [miracle of the moment](#)... but many people missed it... then and now... if you're busy all the time... never slow down... you'll miss God's timing... miss the miracle of the moment...
- h. trust is necessary to slow down and wait... hard to trust someone you don't know... *our patience reveals degree of trust we have in God's timing*...
Psa 27:14... "wait patiently for the Lord... be brave and courageous..."
Psa 37:7... "be still... wait patiently before the Lord... don't worry..."
Isa 40:31... "those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength..."
Lam 3:25... "the Lord is good to those who wait for Him..."
- i. when you trust God... believe in His promises... timing becomes irrelevant... because [God's timing](#) is always good timing... can't trust if you don't know what He said... becomes so much clearer when you meditate on Word...
Psa 32:10... "unfailing love surrounds those who trust the Lord... so rejoice..."
Psa 119:97-105... "Word makes me wise... lamp to guide... light for path..."
Prov 3:5-6... "trust in the Lord... He will show you what path to take..."
1Thess 2:13... "received Word, welcomed it... works in you who believe..."
- j. why did Jesus come 2000 years ago... don't know... but I know He came at exactly [the right moment](#)... God's timing always comes at the right moment... problem is... the right moment is not always the moment I have chosen...
Deut 11:14... "I will provide rain for your land in the proper time..."
Psa 104:27... "all wait for You... to give them food at the right time..."
John 2:4... "My hour has not yet come..."
John 7:6... "My time has not yet arrived..."
- k. how do you understand when the moment is... have to understand seasons... [seasons](#) are clues to God's timing... allows you to act accordingly...
Deut 11:12-21... "bring in harvest... commit wholeheartedly to my Word..."
Eccl 3:1... "for everything there is a season... a time for every activity..."
Luke 8:15... "hear God's word... hold on... patiently produce huge harvest..."
Winter - dream and plan
Spring - plant
Summer - water and cultivate
Fall - harvest the crop, share, enjoy
- l. every area of life ([spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual, social](#)) has a season... can be in different seasons in different areas... even winter has a purpose... dead, lifeless now... start dreaming about what to plant... seasons change...
- m. to find out God's timing... ask yourself... *what season am I in*... don't be afraid you've missed it... never too late with God... but you can't skip seasons... so take the correct step for the season you're in...
Joel 2:25... "I will repay you for the years the locust ate... you'll be satisfied..."
2Cor 6:2... "at just the right time, I heard you... indeed, the right time is now..."
Eph 5:15-16... "walk wisely... redeeming the time..."
- n. one moment can make all the difference... that's why God doesn't want us to waste any moments... when time was right, God sent Jesus... made a difference for every single person in our world who wasn't too busy to see it... [pray](#)...
Rom 5:6-11... "when we were utterly helpless... Christ came at just the right time and died for us... now we will certainly be saved by His life..."

Right Place, Right Time

Ecc 9:11... *time and chance happen to them all...*

God's word tells us that being faster, stronger, and wiser doesn't automatically make you a winner in life. No, it is actually being at the right place at the right time that causes you to receive blessings. And God... who holds time and chance in His hands... is the only One who can put you at the right place at the right time.

He did this for Ruth. She trusted God for favor when she went looking for a field to glean in. **Ruth 2:2**. Then, the Bible tells us that she *happened* to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech. **Ruth 2:3**.

Of all the fields in Bethlehem... she *happened* to end up in Boaz's field... who was a close relative of Elimelech... her father-in-law. This meant that Boaz was her potential kinsman redeemer... someone who could redeem her from her plight as a young, childless widow in a foreign land.

Boaz also *happened* to be a man of great wealth. **Ruth 2:1**. And, as it turned out... he was also willing to redeem her. **Ruth 4:9-10**.

All of these right happenings could only mean that God had placed Ruth in the right place at the right time. Most likely... the very day that Ruth told her mother-in-law that the God of Israel would be her God... He took note of it and put her in the right place at the right time. **Ruth 1:16**.

Today... God also wants you to know that because you have said, *God, You are my God...* He will be your God of divine happenings. He will put you at the right place at the right time... where you will meet the right people... do the right things... and even be protected from danger and harm.

You may not know where all the great opportunities are... but God does. He was the one who put in you the skills, talents, and gifts you have... and He knows where you need to be... when you should be there... and what you need to be doing to be truly blessed and fulfilled. Trust Him to do that for you today!!

Pastor Joseph Prince

Sermon Study

The Moment - Gal 4:4 - December 6, 2020

1. Sit in **complete silence** for 60 seconds. How did that feel? Was it difficult to have silence for one minute? Why or why not?
2. Read **Ecc 3:1-11**. Write down some things that have happened... or not happened... in your life due to **good timing**. Did God have a part? What was it? Read **Psa 46:1... Prov 2:11... Prov 4:6**.
3. Do you tend to be too busy and often **miss** the **special moments** of life... especially at Christmas? Why do you think that is? Read **Isa 46:10... Jer 2:25 MSG... Matt 11:28-30... Luke 10:38-42**.
4. Why is **God's timing** always good timing? Read **1Chron 12:32... Ecc 3:11... Psa 18:30-32**. How does that affect your **choices**?
5. Read **Psa 27:14... Psa 37:7... Isa 40:31... Lam 3:25**. Are you good at slowing down and **waiting on God**? Why or why not?
6. What does **knowing God's word** have to do with trusting Him? Read **Psa 32:10... Psa 119:97-105... Prov 3:5-6... 1Thess 2:13**.
7. What do **seasons** have to do with understanding God's timing? Read **Deut 11:12-21... Ecc 3:1... Luke 8:15**. How do they match up with spiritual things? Is it possible to **miss the moment** and be prevented from getting a harvest? Read **Joel 2:25... 2Cor 6:2... Eph 5:15-16**. What was **THE moment** that God doesn't want any of us to miss. Read **Rom 5:6-11**.

Advent Explanation

November 29, 2020

Not all of us have Christmas decorations up yet, but many do. Traditionally, Christmas stuff gets put up only after Thanksgiving... that is unless you're Walmart, and then it gets put up in late September!!

Christmas truly is the most wonderful time of the year... and with the year we've had... many are celebrating early. Advent is intended for us to slow down, take a deep breath, and remember the real reason for the season.

Advent means: *the coming or arrival of something or someone that is important or worthy.*

The very first mention of Advent goes back to AD 380 at the Spanish Council of Saragossa!! Even they were busy!!

There's no perfect guide on how to celebrate getting ready for Jesus... so there really isn't a *right or wrong* way to have Advent in your church or your family.

Generally, the themes of Advent correspond to particular weeks.

- Week 1 - Hope
- Week 2 - Preparation
- Week 3 - Joy
- Week 4 - Love
- Week 5 - Christ

The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the world and He came to dispel the darkness. They are meant, in the middle of our busyness, to remind us first and foremost, that the entire Christmas season is all about Jesus. We encourage you to have your own Advent traditions at home, as well as here.

Advent - Week 2 - Preparation

December 6, 2020

READING

This is the second week of advent. We light the **candle of preparation** to remind us that the prophets prepared the way for the Messiah to come and save the people. Instead of merely reading the Word this week, ask God to prepare your heart to receive it and get a deeper revelation of who Jesus is and how much He loves you.

Light two of the PURPLE candles and then finish by reading the Scripture below.

SCRIPTURE

Isa 40:3-5... *Listen! It's the voice of someone shouting, Clear the way thru the wilderness for the Lord! Make a straight highway thru the wasteland for our God! Fill in the valleys, and level the mountains and hills. Straighten the curves, and smooth out the rough places. Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. The Lord has spoken!*

Alternative readings: Psa 72:18... Isa 11:1-10... Luke 1:26-38
Song: O Come O Come Emmanuel