

7-17-22

Galatians 4:1-7.

Time is an interesting thing. How do we spend it? Where we spend it? With whom do we spend it?

How are you about being on time? (Taj? Concetta?)

When we are younger, we cannot wait to get older. (16, 18, 21) Then when we are older, we want time to slow down or go backwards.

Our whole life is dictated by time. There have been hundreds of books written about time, time management...etc.

Wouldn't it be awesome to be able to time everything perfectly?

Do you know who is not dictated, directed by time? God. Matter of fact time is directed by Him.

Everything He does is perfectly timed.

Read Galatians 4:1-7

Paul explains to the church in Galatia that the Jews were under the guardianship of that Mosaic law *“until the time appointed by the Father.”* He talks about when they were children they were under the control of their parents, it didn't matter if you were a slave, royalty, rich or poor, you were under someone else's management until time had come that you were deemed ready. (Age appropriate)

The Jews were under the guardianship of the Law until God's perfect timing, *“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”*

Now in the Greek language there were two words for "time". One is "kairos" which means "opportune time" - an opportunity that comes your way, that just pops up -maybe quite by accident.

Then there's "kronos" from which comes our word "chronology" the orderly progression of events when everything follows its proper sequence. The word "time" in verse 4 is "kronos", God set it up in proper sequence. God planned & orchestrated the sequence of events, & when the time was just right, He sent His only begotten Son into the world.

Acts 17:26, And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,

Ecclesiastes 3:11, He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.

I. God is always on time.

- In **Genesis 24** is the story of Abraham's servant being sent back to their homeland, to the town of Nahor, to find a wife for his son Isaac. The servant felt the pressure of his assignment, & he didn't want to fail. So, when he arrived there, he knelt at the well of Nahor & he prayed that God would send the right young woman to the well, & that when he asked for a drink, she would also offer to water his camels.
- Now what do you think the odds are of that happening just that way? But that was his prayer. And as he was praying, the Bible says that Rebekah came to the well & filled her water jar.

- **Read Genesis 24:16-20.**
- So, at just the right time, & at just the right place God sent Rebekah to meet the servant, & she ends up becoming the wife of Isaac.
- Remember Joseph? he was the favorite son of Jacob, & grandson of Isaac. He had a coat of many colors, & his brothers were all jealous of him. So, one time when he went out to see them, they decided to strip off his coat, throw him into a pit & let him die. But at just the right time a caravan making its way to Egypt came by. At just the right time Joseph arrived in Egypt. And at just the right time he interpreted Pharaoh's dream. And at just the right time, Joseph rose to great power in Egypt. And at just the right time the famine struck, & his brothers made their way to Egypt, & the family was reunited. At just the right time Joseph told his brothers,

Genesis 50:20, “But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.”

- At just the right time David came to the battlefield & saw Goliath flexing his muscles, boasting of his power.
- At just the right time Esther was made queen when her people were about to be exterminated. And her Uncle Mordecai said to her, **“For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:14)**
- God is in control. Nothing takes Him by surprise.

Daniel 2:21, “He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding;”

- God is in control of time. Nothing is happening in this world that is surprising to God. God doesn't say, "I didn't know that was going to happen." God is in charge

II. God's timing is always perfect.

- **Galatians 4:4 says, “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son...”**
- Don't we like to give and receive the perfect gift? Isn't a struggle in knowing what the perfect gift is?
- When we give the really big gifts, don't we like it to be perfectly timed?
- When God sent Jesus into the world everything had to be just right.

1. It was right culturally.

- 300 hundred years before Jesus came to earth, Alexander the Great had conquered most of the known world, bringing with him Greek culture, Greek philosophy, & the Greek language. So, by the 1st Century, Greek was a universal language, the language of the common people, the language that everyone could understand, just right for the quick spread of the gospel.

2. It was the right time politically.

- By the 1st Century Rome had conquered most of the world, & a Roman named Octavian came into power. So powerful was he that the Roman Senate named him the ruler of Rome. But they didn't like the title "king," so they chose the title "Augustus," the "August One," Caesar Augustus. And he became the first Roman Emperor. Then when Luke tells about the birth of Jesus, he writes, "**In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.**" (Luke 2:1) God used a pagan government, a pagan emperor, & a pagan decree to make sure that Mary & Joseph made the 80-mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem so that the Christ would be born in Bethlehem - just as the prophets had foretold.
- We can also see God's timing in the life of Jesus. Have you ever noticed, as you read the Gospels, how often you read the words, "**the time has come,**" or "**the time has not yet come**"?
- For instance, **Mark 1:15** says, "**The time has come...The kingdom of God is near.**" Whose time? Who is watching the clock? Who determined that this was the right time?
- In **John 7:6**, his brothers encouraged Jesus to go down to Jerusalem & perform His miracles there. But Jesus says, "**The right time for me has not yet come.**"
- In **John 7:30**, His enemies try to seize Him, but they are unable to do so. And the Bible says, it is "**...because His time had not yet come.**"
- Whose time? You're right. It's God's time!
- After the upper room experience, the breaking of bread & the initiation of the Lord's Supper, the whole language begins to change in the gospels & you read that the time has come.
- In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus prays, "**Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.**" (John 17:1) To his disciples He says, "**The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners...**" (Mark 14:41).
- Then He says to those who have come to arrest Him, "**This is your hour? when darkness reigns**" (Luke 22:53). **Romans 5:6** says, "**You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.**" "At just the right time!"

III. God is always perfectly on time, even in our lives.

- If you're a Christian, look back at your own conversion. I imagine that you can think of people & events, or words & circumstances that touched your heart, that conditioned your soul, that made your mind receptive to Jesus so that when the seed was planted in your heart it took root & started to grow.
- All of us have times in our lives where we could argue that God's timing isn't always perfect. You don't always get instant answers to your prayers. It doesn't always work out the way we hope it will.
- But here's the promise. No matter how difficult, no matter how tough life may be, no matter how disappointing things might be, God is still in control. Trust God and His word over circumstances.
- In **Romans 13:11** Paul writes, "**The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.**"
- "Wake up!" he says. If you're a Christian, rejoice. But if you're not a Christian, be concerned, because the clock is ticking, & there is not a lot of time left. One of these days we'll hear the trumpets blow, & we'll see the glory of God coming in the sky. Are you ready for that?

Conclusion

Have you asked yourself what time it is in your life? Do you have time to play with this morning? Or will you take advantage of this opportunity, realizing that in God's chronology He has led you to this moment when you can give your heart & your life to Jesus Christ?

We extend His invitation. Will you come as we stand & as we sing?