

WHEN IS IT TIME?

When is it time to seek the Lord? That time is now.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ “To everything there is a season” (Ecclesiastes 3:1). The Bible tells us that there is a time for every purpose. So here is a question: **When is it time to seek the Lord?**
- ❖ Ecclesiastes mentions “a time to plant” (3:2). Planting sounds like a simple thing. A seed is put in the ground and if all goes well it should grow. But planting involves many little decisions: what seed; which ground; how deep; how much water, etc.
- ❖ A time to plant. When we’re thinking of starting out on a new venture, like another chapter of education, or a new job or a business—is that a time to seek the Lord?
- ❖ There is also a time to pluck up what is planted (3:2). Sometimes it starts to become clear that our lives need to take a completely different direction. That can feel like we are plucking up what we’ve planted, what we have put so much effort and time into.
- ❖ Is that a time to seek the Lord?
- ❖ In the life of Jacob, several times he had to “unplant,” to pick up everything and move. In Genesis 35 God told him to get up and move to Bethel, where he had originally had his own personal encounter with God.
- ❖ Bethel was where Jacob saw that his life on earth was linked, as if by a ladder, to heavenly realities. He saw that God was constantly, directly involved with him, and that angels were in action in all the situations of his life (vv.11-15).
- ❖ Now God was telling him to get back to that place (v.1). To Bethel. To the house of God. To the realization of the presence of God in his life. The commitments he made, to partner with God in all his dealings, and for this great Jehovah to be his God.
- ❖ Immediately, Jacob plucked up himself and his family from where they were and started to move. They also had to pluck up some things that shouldn’t be there, that had become implanted in them...like occult superstitions and worshiping of other gods.
- ❖ Coming back to Bethel was an amazing experience. God confirmed Jacob’s new name, Israel, and pronounced a promise about nations and kings and generations of blessings.
- ❖ But then something unexpected happened. Even after this intense encounter with God, Jacob made a different decision: that they would leave Bethel.
- ❖ When Jacob ended his working relationship with his father-in-law, Laban came chasing after him. When he caught up with Jacob and his family there was a big problem he wanted to deal with right away: Who took my gods?! (See Genesis 31:30-35.)
- ❖ These idols, these false gods, were clearly very important to Rachel (Laban’s daughter, Jacob’s favoured wife), who was willing to steal them from

KEY SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

- her father and was willing to risk her life in order to take them with her.
- ❖ Maybe this attachment to other gods is what made Bethel, this place of worship of the one almighty God, an uncomfortable place to be. What we do know is that for some reason Jacob and company decided to leave Bethel, even in the face of a direct command from God. And when they did this, Rachel died.
 - ❖ What if they had decided once and for all to put to death the worship of all false gods? What if we decide to put to death everything that wants to take God’s place in our lives?
 - ❖ Colossians 3 tells us some things we need to kill (vv.5-9) and also takes us into a time to heal, a way to live a new healthy spiritual life (vv.10-17).
 - ❖ This echoes Ecclesiastes 3:3, which speaks of a time to kill, and a time to heal (3:3).
 - ❖ When is it time to seek the Lord? According to Jesus, that time is always “now”. But it is determined by our desire.
 - ❖ When is it a good time not to pray? Starts with “n” and ends with “ever.” Access to God is not a given, it’s a gift; one that we can’t take for granted.
 - ❖ So, how might we seek God? We pray—we talk to God. We seek God through the things we choose to say and not to say. We can also seek God through our actions—by deliberately doing things the word of God tells us to do. (See 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; James 1:27).
 - ❖ “Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy; Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the Lord, Till He comes and rains righteousness on you” (Hosea 10:12).

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. A time to...seek the Lord. Make a list of when we could/should seek the Lord. Of those items listed, put a checkmark beside the times you personally sought the Lord. How did you seek the Lord (through prayer, the Word, etc.)?
2. For the instances where there is no checkmark, discuss why one would decide not to seek the Lord. Would this decision be wise/unwise?
3. Take some time now to seek the Lord.

PRAYER TIME

Today, Lord, I will seek You. Today, Lord, I will pray. Today, Lord, I worship You. Today.

Start-up: About time...time flies...time is money... What sayings about "time" are you familiar with and which ones do you like/dislike?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, MAY 30, 2021

NOTES

- Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.
- ✓ (Reminds me/Confirms)
 - 💡 (New idea)
 - 🌀 (Think about)
 - ⚡ (Do this)
 - ❤️ (Speaks to my heart)
 - ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

**Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to
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Tomorrow (The Winans)

Jesus said, "Here I stand
Won't you please let me in?"
And you said, "I will tomorrow."

Jesus said, "I am he
Who supplies all your needs."
And you said, "I know but tomorrow."

Tomorrow
I'll give my life tomorrow
I thought about today
But it's so much easier to say

Tomorrow
Who promised you tomorrow?
Better choose the Lord today
For tomorrow very well might be today

FAITH SANCTUARY ON-LINE SERVICES

SUNDAY @ 10:15 a.m. – Sunday Bible Study
SUNDAY @ 11:00 a.m. – Worship Service LIVE
SUNDAY @ 3:00 and 8:00 p.m. – Worship
Service Rebroadcast
MONDAY @ 6:30 p.m. – Berean Bible Study on
Zoom, Facebook, YouTube
WEDNESDAY @ 7:00 p.m. – Worship Service
Rebroadcast

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

MAY 30, 2021

Faith SANCTUARY

Know Jesus, Love Jesus, Share Jesus

2021 ~ Live It! ~ 2021

Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie

*"And ye shall seek me,
and find me, when ye
shall search for me with
all your heart."
Jeremiah 29:13 NKJV*

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