

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS — Esther 4:14, Ephesians 5:16-20

Time. The ancient Greeks have two words for time: 1) *chronos* and 2) *Kairos*. *Chronos* is literally the minute-by-minute, hour-by-hour counting of time. The Apostle Paul, however, used the word *Kairos*. *Kairos* isn't about minutes and seconds and wristwatches and sundials. It's not about the flow of time or a specific measurement of time. Instead, *kairos* carries with it the idea of the *right time* – the idea of a pre-determined time, an opportune and appointed time. Furthermore, *Kairos* doesn't have to be an instant. It could be a short window of time, like time to take a break or it could even be a season like harvest. The word *Kairos* is used to convey urgency where you better get moving. Those crops aren't going to harvest themselves. It is the appointed time, the proper time, the slice of time where you have an opportunity – but that *Kairos* is going to eventually slip away, so don't miss it.

Last Sunday, Pastor Ta talked about how our time on earth is appointed by God, and He places us in situations and seasons in which we need to make the most out of. He brings people into our lives who need to know Christ and God wants us to take advantage of the time He gives us to impact lives and change this world, otherwise, we waste our time, influence and the opportunity to make Jesus known. The sermon was clear: we must make the most of every opportunity by:

1. **Recognizing that God is in control over your life.** Every situation you find yourself in happens within God's appointed time. When we find people in our lives who need Jesus, rest assured that it is God who placed them there. We don't need to ask God, "*Lord, is it your will for me (or is it time) to share the Gospel or not?*" The answer to that is always, yes it is, because God does not want anyone to perish but that everyone will come to Him (2 Peter 3:9). We must understand that nothing happens apart from the will of God.
2. **Being intentional with your influence now.** In verses 15-16, we see that Paul encourages us to "make the most of every opportunity." The Greek phrase he used is, *exagorizo Kairos*, which literally means "buy back (redeem) time" because the world will be consumed by darkness unless we act. It's as if we have to rescue and redeem these opportunities from the clutches of an evil world. It's almost like a tug-of-war where opportunity (*kairos*) is in the middle, and we're pulling one way while the evil days are pulling the other way. That's not what's happening here. Opportunity is not in the middle. Opportunity is not in neutral ground – it's in hostile territory. Using our influence is crucial now.
3. **Surrender yourself to the control of the Holy Spirit.** Two of the most crucial commands we find in these verses are 17-18. Instead of letting other things and substances control our minds, we must surrender to the control of Holy Spirit. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is the best way to know God's will for our lives, because it is through the Spirit that we have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:15-16).

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEXT STEPS:

- July 2 - Outdoor Worship and Baptism Bash
- Arrows (Parenting Seminar in August)

PRAY TOGETHER

- For God to use you to lead someone to Him this week.
- For Pastor Jon and our church as we prepare for the new series, 13 REASONS.

GOAL FOR THIS STUDY:

Following the example of Jesus who did not allow anything to deter Him from doing God's will, we want to learn what it takes to obey God's will and make evangelism (leading others to Jesus) become our priority. The decision that Jesus made, "not my will, but yours be done" (Matthew 26:39) changed everything for us. The decision we make when we surrender to God's will to lead others to Him can also change many lives.

Connection and Action

Questions to promote conversation and connection

Question:

Because we have experienced God's grace, part of being a Christian is having the desire to share the Gospel and help others be born again. Do you have that desire?

Question:

Do you struggle discovering the will of God for you life?

Question:

Who shared the Gospel with you and where do you think would you be if someone did not share the Gospel with you?

Bible and Belief

Questions to help believers develop a biblical point of view.

Question:

Does "redeeming the time" imply that every Christian must devote every spare minute to serving the Lord? How do we determine the balance between leisure and service? Or is there such thing as a balance between the two?

Question:

Practically, why is it important for every believer (not just pastors) to understand God's desire for people to be saved?

Question:

What are the signs of a Spirit-filled life?

Question:

The number one enemy of Christians in sharing the Gospel is apathy. How can we shake off our apathy and develop a passion to lead others to Jesus?

Question:

In Ephesians 2:10, Paul states that God prepared our good works beforehand. What does God want us to spend our time doing?

Growing in Leadership

Questions to help people grow as leaders.

Question:

How can we learn to be alert for the opportunities that God brings our way?

Question:

The Bible teaches us to be careful with closely associating with unbelievers because of their influence (2 Cor. 6:14-17). How then can we befriend them to reach them with the gospel? Where's the balance?

Question:

What do you find most difficult about telling others about Jesus? Why? How can you overcome such difficulties?

Question:

How can we emphasise to people the seriousness of their need to be receive Jesus and be saved without alienating them with a message of "hell"?