

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, a time to reap that which is planted;
A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.”

For some this may recall your memory to Ecclesiastes, for others the hit Turn! Turn! Turn by the Byrds. For others, maybe my generation this may come to mind (Footloose clip). There is a time for every purpose under heaven. This was such a great movie, especially when he yells, “Let’s dance!” and all the confetti falls. So great. Anyway. I love that Ren McCormack, Kevin Bacon, knows that this is the time to dance. Dancing had been banned in that town for quite some time, but he knew. This was his fight and the time was now to make this difference. The time had come and he was the one to make this change. Pastor Sid asked us a great question last week, “How will I live my life this year?” Have any of you thought about it? In your life, what is this season for you? What is the season of this year for you? I ask you to take this question to heart and to consider it this week.

We just moved out of Advent, which is a season of waiting, of expecting, and celebration. A version of the word means coming. So, maybe some of us are still in the Christmas season—stretching out our decorations and Christmas light season. For most of us we have moved to the season of Epiphany. We are now in the second Sunday after the Epiphany. Full disclosure, I had to look this up. The season of Epiphany is a season of revelation, a time to recognize the arrival of God’s plan in Jesus and a time to look forward to God’s ongoing action through the Christ event. I bring this up because so much in my life I didn’t know the season or what the current space was a time for. I wasn’t aware. I wasn’t aware of what our holidays meant. I wasn’t aware that the calendar offers so much more than dates. I did what so many around me did, we bought the holidays. Holidays were very commercial for me and I didn’t know the season of that celebration was truly bringing. I didn’t appreciate the greater opportunity. I’m quickly catching up with the liturgical calendar.

But I’ve also become much more aware of the seasons of my life. This has only become possible through faith. It’s funny, as I was preparing this sermon my puppy Otis (one year old boxer) was looking out the window and noticed his buddies were playing in the park. To him, this was a season of playtime. He strongly felt, and let me know, that this was the time for going outside and playing. For me, this was not play time, this was sermon writing time. While this is kind of funny, it is so the point of what happens without faith. I fought the seasons in my life. I didn’t agree. “A time for embracing and a time for avoiding embraces” “a time for keeping silent and a time for speaking” “a time for war and a time for peace.” My teens and twenties were a time for silence, a time for avoiding embraces, and a time for war inside of me. I didn’t understand this season. I looked around and it seemed like everyone else was having a Footloose, “Let’s Dance” season. Why does my season suck so bad? It must be me. I must be

wrong. I must be not good. I must be forsaken. Because I didn't understand the season, I fought it and I made it mean something about my not good enoughness. I just made up that word.

Can any of you hear what I'm saying? Have you fought a season in your life that wasn't your plan? Have you so wanted something to be different than it is? Luke 22:42, "'Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.'" Have you been in a season that was not your will? Where was faith in that season for you?

What happens when we put our trust and our faith in God? Maybe we pray for a change in season and maybe the season does change and maybe it doesn't. But what happens to our experience of the season when we see it as a time under the heavens? Can we navigate the season with more purpose, learning, and grace? Can we find compassion for ourselves and others in tough seasons?

I came across the word, Kairos, a few months ago. I think I may have even weaved it into an earlier sermon. Kairos means the right, critical, or opportune moment. To me, it's like divine timing. Some things have a Kairos moment. It's like right time, right place. This suggests that you are helping to define your time as opposed to dwelling in the past or future. This involves stepping in to provide leadership where there is need for direction. For example, Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963 that became a primary inspiration for the civil rights movement of the 1960s in America.

"This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice."

~ Martin Luther King, August 28, 1963

Rosa Parks was also a great example of Kairos. December 1, 1955 on the bus that day was her moment. Maybe plenty other black women or men had refused to relinquish their seat prior to that day and we never knew about it. Maybe it didn't go well for them. But on this day, it was time. It was time for this woman, Rosa Parks, to make this stand. And she knew it. Not the significance of this moment- can you imagine? But she knew it was her time to put a stake in the sand. It was the right time, the right place, and the right season.

Do you ever notice when something becomes your season you start seeing it everywhere? You get signs that come out of nowhere? As I shared a few weeks ago it is a wedding season for me. Interesting that I am now seeing things about weddings everywhere... everywhere. So, I open my Bible for the readings today and what is the title, "Wedding at Cana." Interesting. Jesus says, "My hour has not yet come." Maybe he didn't think this was his season, but maybe it was time for him to reveal how God's Messiah becomes manifest to the broader world. Maybe it wasn't, which is why so few new about the first miracle of water being turned into wine at the time.

It can be challenging to decipher when maybe we feel it's not our time and our mom says that it is. Or we feel ready for something and it doesn't seem to be our season for it. This is where our spiritual practice comes in. Our time of contemplation helps us to discern our will or thy will. But if you feel a calling in your heart stay with it. Pray without ceasing. Keep doing the next

right thing. Galatians 6:9, “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Don’t give up. Don’t quit before the miracle. There is a season for all things under heaven.

Faith. The opposite of faith is not doubt. The opposite of faith is certainty. When we are not certain, have faith. Keep doing the best you know in the moment. Keep stepping... and there will be a time under heaven.

What is this season bringing forward for you? How will you live your life this year? For the next three minutes I want you to consider your season. Is this your moment? Is it time to act? Is it time for faith, for prayer? What is this season calling for in your life?