

Faith in the Home

Third Sunday After the Epiphany, Mark 1:14-20 "Defining Moments"

"Where does the time go?" "Time flies!" "Enjoy the moment, it won't last forever." I still struggle with the fact that I graduated high school 20 years ago. Where did the time go? Yet, there are times where time can drag. When Covid hit in 2020, I felt like that year was a long year. It felt to me like 2020, was about 2 years long, and 2021, didn't feel that much shorter to me. In the Biblical Greek, "Kronos," is the word for chronological time, the kind of time we measure in seconds, minutes, hours, days, month, and years. Then there are moments that you can relive them in your mind. They can seem stand still. They can be good or bad moments. These are moments where something changed or greatly affected our lives. They can even change us. Sometimes they are moments that we waited a long for. In the Biblical Greek these kinds of "times," are called "Kairos."

When Jesus' ministry began after John the Baptist was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The Kairos (time) is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." Christ's ministry was the fulfillment of God's promise to Adam and Eve in Genesis 3, after the fall of man. This was a fulfillment of prophecies and promises to God's people made throughout the entire Old Testament. Jesus' ministry was the most important moment in our entire universe's history. Even though it took place about two thousand years ago, Jesus' ministry was the most important moment in your life and mine as well.

In the person of Jesus, God became man and did the work to give salvation for everyone who would believe. Eternal life and death depend upon placing faith in Jesus who as the creator of the world, inserted Himself into the world's history. His ministry is recorded for us especially His death on the cross and His miraculous resurrection from the dead. He did all this out of love for us. While this time in history is the most important moment for us it is also the most important moment for everyone else. Even those who do not realize it. Even for those who do not believe. This is why Jesus called the men who would His disciples from their fishing boats, and told them from that point on that He would, "Teach them to catch men."

Think of the people you care about in your life. How many of them do not believe that Jesus is the Son of the Living God, risen from the dead? How many people do you know that do believe Jesus is the Christ, but still need help and encouragement in their Christian walk? The time ("Kronos") ticks away, but your relationships provide the opportunity for some moments ("Kairos") where the Gospel can take hold. God does the

work of salvation, but He uses His Church for this purpose to bring others to salvation, and we are His Church. So, we must lean on Him in prayer for others, and for own wisdom to share the life changing gospel.

How do we apply this passage to our own lives.

1. Sharing the gospel and "winning" people for Christ should not be compared to making your sales quota at work, or meeting any other standards put in place by the management where you work. As a salesperson my seek customers for the goal of a sales transaction, evangelism is a lot more about building genuine relationships where people genuinely care for one another. One moment can change everything, but evangelism and discipleship is a marathon not a sprint. The relationship can be the catalyst for the gospel of Jesus to change someone's life.
 2. Don't just look out into the world for new converts, but look at the relationships you already have. Pray and ask God for wisdom to see who it is that you already know who would be open at least hear about why you believe what you do. Remember not everyone is looking for a savior, even though we all need the savior of the world, Jesus.
 3. If someone is not open to receive the good news of Jesus, don't force it. Let God work on them.
 4. Be quick to offer prayers for people when they struggle, and then follow through. If something changes in their life, that may be the spark for them to want to know more about Jesus.
 5. Don't be afraid to invite friends to church. Do so tactfully and ask God for wisdom to know when to invite and when to backoff. (Remember, most people go to worship for the first time when someone invited them to come along.)
 6. Don't be the type to always quote Scripture, and point out when people you are close to you are blatantly sinning. You are going to meet and know people who do not believe what we believe, and therefore they are going to live differently than we do. Patience, tact, and building a relationship where you are trusted is crucial to evangelism. People have to know you care, before they care about what you know.
 7. Be genuine, and seek God through prayer and His Word.
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