

Faithfulness For Seasons of Fruitfulness

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A. Kairos: Redeeming the Time

- (Col 4:2-6) Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; {3} meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, {4} that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. {5} Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. {6} Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.
- (2 Tim 4:1-5) I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: {2} Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. {3} For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; {4} and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. {5} But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.
- (John 7:1-9) After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him. {2} Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand. {3} His brothers therefore said to Him, "Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing." {4} "For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world." {5} For even His brothers did not believe in Him. {6} Then Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready. {7} "The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil. {8} "You go up to this feast. I am not yet going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come." {9} When He had said these things to them, He remained in Galilee.
- (Eph 5:14-18) Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light." {15} See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, {16} **redeeming the time**, because the days are evil. {17} Therefore do not be unwise, but **understand what the will of the Lord is**. {18} And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

B. A Time to Run

- (2 Sam 18:19-30) Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said, "**Let me run now** and take the news to the king, how the LORD has avenged him of his enemies." {20} And Joab said to him, "**You shall not take the news this day**, for you shall take the news **another day**. But **today** you shall take no news, because the king's son is dead." {21} Then Joab said to the Cushite, "Go, tell the king what you have seen." So the Cushite bowed himself to Joab and ran. {22} And Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said again to Joab, "But whatever happens, please let me also run after the Cushite." So Joab said, "Why will you run, my son, since you have **no news ready?**" {23} "But whatever happens," he said, "let me run." So he said to him, "Run." Then Ahimaaz ran by way of the plain, and outran the Cushite. {24} Now David was sitting between the two gates. And the watchman went up to the roof over the gate, to the wall, lifted his eyes and looked, and there was a man, running alone. {25} Then the watchman cried out and told the king. And the king said, "If he is alone, there is news in his mouth." And he came rapidly and drew near. {26} Then the watchman saw another man running, and the watchman called to the gatekeeper and said, "There is another man, running alone!" And the king said, "He also brings news." {27} So the watchman said, "I think the running of the first is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok." And the king said, "He is a good man, and comes with good news." {28} And Ahimaaz called out and said to the king, "All is well!" Then he bowed down with his face to the earth before the king, and said, "Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delivered up the men who raised their hand against my lord the king!" {29} The king said, "Is the young man Absalom safe?" Ahimaaz answered, "When Joab sent the king's servant and me your servant, I saw a great tumult, but I did not know what it was about." {30} And the king said, "**Turn aside and stand here**." So he **turned aside and stood still**.

C. Everything Beautiful In It's Time ('eth)

- (Eccl 3:1-17) To everything there is a **season**, A **time** for every purpose under heaven: {2} A **time** to be born, And a **time** to die; A **time** to plant, And a **time** to pluck what is planted; {3} A **time** to kill, And a **time** to heal; A **time** to break down, And a **time** to build up; {4} A **time** to weep, And a **time** to laugh; A **time** to mourn, And a **time** to dance; {5} A **time** to cast away stones, And a **time** to gather stones; A **time** to embrace, And a **time** to refrain from embracing; {6} A **time** to gain, And a **time** to lose; A **time** to keep, And a **time** to throw away; {7} A **time** to tear, And a **time** to sew; A **time** to keep silence, And a **time** to speak; {8} A **time** to love, And a **time** to hate; A **time** of war, And a **time** of peace. {9} What profit has the worker from that in which he labors? {10} I have seen the God-given task with which the sons of men are to be occupied. {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. {12} I know that nothing is better for them than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives, {13} and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor; it is the gift of God. {14} I know that whatever God does, It shall be **forever**. Nothing can be added to it, And nothing taken from it. God does it, that men should fear before Him. {15} That which is has already been, And what is to be has already been; And God requires an account of what is past. {16} Moreover I saw under the sun: In the place of judgment, Wickedness was there; And in the place of righteousness, Iniquity was there. {17} I said in my heart, "God shall judge the righteous and the wicked, For there is a **time** there for every purpose and for every work."

D. Times

- Gen. 18:10-14; 24:11; 29:7; 31:10; 38:27 Lev. 26:3-5; Deut. 11:13-14; 28:12; 2 Sam. 11:1 Ps. 1:1-3; 4:7; 31:15; 102:13; 145:15; Prov. 15:23
- (Gen 18:10-14) And He said, "I will certainly return to you according to the **time of life**, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son." (Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him.) {11} Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing. {12} Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?" {13} And the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?' {14} "Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the **appointed time** I will return to you, according to the **time of life**, and Sarah shall have a son."
- (Gen 24:11) And he made his camels kneel down outside the city by a well of water at evening time, the **time when women go out to draw water**.
- (Gen 29:7) Then he said, "Look, it is still high day; it is **not time for the cattle to be gathered together**. Water the sheep, and go and feed them."
- (Gen 31:10) "And it happened, at the **time when the flocks conceived**, that I lifted my eyes and saw in a dream, and behold, the rams which leaped upon the flocks were streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted.
- (Gen 38:27) Now it came to pass, at the **time for giving birth**, that behold, twins were in her womb.
- (Lev 26:3-5) 'If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them, {4} then I will give you rain **in its season**, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. {5} Your threshing shall last till the **time** of vintage, and the vintage shall last till the **time** of sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely.
- (Deu 11:13-14) 'And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, {14} 'then I will give you the rain for your land **in its season**, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil.
- (Deu 28:12) "The LORD will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land **in its season**, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.
- (2 Sam 11:1) It happened in the spring of the year, at the **time when kings go out to battle**, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.
- (Psa 1:1-3) Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; {2} But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates **day and night**. {3} He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its **fruit in its season**, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.
- (Psa 4:7) You have put gladness in my heart, More than in the **season** that their grain and wine increased.
- (Psa 31:15) My **times** are in Your hand; Deliver me from the hand of my enemies, And from those who persecute me.

- (Psa 102:13) You will arise and have mercy on Zion; For the **time** to favor her, Yes, the **set time**, has come.
- (Psa 145:15) The eyes of all look expectantly to You, And You give them their food in **due season**.
- (Prov 15:23) A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, And a word spoken in **due season**, how good it is!

E. Seasons (mow'ed)

- Gen. 1:14; Ex. 13:10; Ps. 104:19
- (Gen 1:14) Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and **seasons**, and for days and years;
- (Exo 13:10) "You shall therefore keep this ordinance in its **season** from year to year.
- (Psa 104:19) He appointed the moon for **seasons**; The sun knows its going down.

F. Each Season is Preparation for the Next

- (Gal 6:9) And let us not grow **weary** while **doing good**, for in **due season** we shall reap if we **do not lose heart**.

G. Counter-Productive Zeal—Premature Harvesting?

H. Qualifications for Leadership Ministry

- (1 Tim 3:1-12) This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop [overseer; Gr. episkopos], he desires a good work. {2} A bishop [overseer; Gr. episkopos] then must be blameless, the **husband of one wife**, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; {3} not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; {4} one who **rules his own house well**, having *his children* in submission with all reverence {5} (for if a man does not know how to **rule his own house**, how will he take care of the church of God?); {6} not a **novice**, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. {7} Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. {8} Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, {9} holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. {10} But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless. {11} Likewise their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. {12} Let deacons be the **husbands of one wife**, ruling their **children** and their **own houses well**.

1 Not a Novice (neophytos)—Elderly

- (1 Tim. 3:6) not a **novice**, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.
- (Titus 1:5-7) For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint **elders** in every city as I commanded you; {6} if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. {7} For a **bishop** [overseer; Gr. episkopos] must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money,

2 Married, With Children (“his”)

- (1 Tim. 3:4-5) not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; {4} one who **rules his own house well**, having *his children* in submission with all reverence {5} (for if a man does not know how to **rule his own house**, how will he take care of the church of God?);

3 Businessman (“Children” vs. “House”)

- (1 Tim. 3:4) one who **rules his own house well**, having *his children* in submission with all reverence
- (1 Tim. 3:12) Let deacons be the **husbands of one wife**, ruling their **children** and their **own houses well**.

(a) “Do Your Own Business”

- (1 Th 4:11) that you also **aspire** to lead a quiet life, to **mind your own business**, and to work with your own hands, **as we commanded you**,
- (1 Th 4:11 King James Version) And that ye **study** to be quiet, and to **do your own business**, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

I. Seasons—Childhood, Youth, Fatherhood, “Refirement”