

COMMUNION SERIES ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

At The Right Time

John 7:1-13

The "right time" is a phrase that keeps recurring in our passage today. It speaks about Divine appointment, and divine plans.

A Christian's life consists of divine appointments which God sends his way. God has given us a model from the life of Christ of how these things occur and our response to them. They do require that a man or woman of God is walking closely aligned with God's heart.

What do we learn from the way Jesus based His life on God's divine plan?

1) AVOID THE WRONG TIME IN GOD'S SOVEREIGN PLAN (VV. 1-9)

a. Use Spirit-guided common sense to direct your life. (v. 1)

Being a believer is never an excuse for recklessness. Jesus wisely avoided Jerusalem for months when the situation was dangerous.

b. Look at disappointing situations from an eternal perspective. (vv. 2-5)

Christ's brothers demanded He show the world proof of being Messiah. Jesus response was to educate them that God has an appointed time for the significant events in a believer's life.

c. Realize that there is such a thing as "the right time" in God's time table. (vv. 6-8)

Kairos means "the appointed time in the purpose of God", the time when God acts. This is the Greek word for "time" in verses 6 and 8.

How do we know it is the right time? We find out the way we find out God's will in all other situations in life: When it aligns with God's clearly revealed will in the Word, and it is affirmed by the inner conviction of the Spirit in response to prayer. Other helpful affirmations often come from mature godly counsel and circumstances.

Side note: Realize that the price of telling the truth is often unpopularity. (v. 7) The idea recurs in verses 12, 13.

2) OBEY THE RIGHT TIME IN GOD'S SOVEREIGN PLAN (VV. 10–13).

a. When God says go, do it even when it seems strange. (v. 10)

Having just said He wouldn't go, why was Jesus now going? Because it was the right time, having been directed by the Father. On a practical note, had He gone to the Feast right after the insistence of His siblings, it would have been seen as capitulating to the demand to "prove yourself".

b. Be prepared: following God's leading is not a guarantee of popularity, universal acceptance or winning by worldly standards. (v. 11-13)

How can the only perfect Being who ever walked on earth get such a mixed reception? By today's standards of evaluation some would consider His ministry a failure. But you know better than that. From here we can see the best argument against popularity and familiarity as a way of evaluating a ministry, or a Christian's life, for that matter.

Final Thoughts:

God has a right time, a perfect time, a divine appointment, and it is lovingly prepared for every person who belongs to Him. While it does not guarantee popularity or fame, being in the center of God's will does guarantee that your life will always have a joyful continuation, and best of all, a joyful ending.

You can't think of anything that counts more than that.