



A Time For Everything

“There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1 NIV

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- The writer of Ecclesiastes wrote that there is a time for everything. Like the four seasons we observe in nature, we are keenly aware of how life constantly changes—there are beginnings and there are endings.
- We know that this is the way life operates, but many of us struggle to accept and adjust to seasonal changes, often missing out on how the Spirit is present and at work.
- The Scriptures tell us that we have a God who remains the same despite our circumstances, and that we can trust he is always with us no matter what changes may come.
- In this message, I'll be calling us to recognize where we are as individuals and as a church. What time is it in your life? And how does God want to meet and minister to you in the change you're experiencing now, and in the changes to come?

How do you deal with change?

God Met Them in the Change

Consider the following biblical characters:

- **Abraham** – on faith left everything he knew for a foreign land, fathered a child in his old age, endured tests of faith
- **Joseph** – grew up as favored son, left for dead by his brothers, served as a slave, thrown in prison for a crime he didn't commit, restored and made a ruler of Egypt
- **David** – shepherd boy anointed king, hunted by Saul, lost his best friend, sinned with Bathsheba, lost the child, son betrayed him & was killed in rebellion, yet favored by God
- **Mary Magdalene** – saved from a shady past, delivered from demons, watched her Lord die a brutal death, witnessed his resurrection, told she would lose him again

John 20:17 NIV

Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Paul Embraced Change

The Apostle Paul embraced change and was used powerfully by God on the front lines of the Kingdom.

- Paul was a “Hebrew of Hebrews”; he was circumcised on the 8th day & educated in the Law as a Pharisee
- He was zealous for God, doing whatever it took, even seeing to the death of heretics and infidels (Christians)
- He encountered Jesus on his way to kill; he repented of persecutions and spent over a decade being reeducated
- He traveled all over the empire encountering pagan cultures that forced him to contextualize his message
- He became “all things to all men” and suffered for it; enduring hardships for the Kingdom (2 Cor 11:24-30)

Paul, Romans 8:35-37 NLT

³⁵ Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ³⁶ (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") ³⁷ No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

Romans 8:38-39 NLT

³⁸ And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

What God Wants to Do in Change

1. Move us out of apathy and complacency; heighten our spiritual senses to his presence and voice
2. Draw us closer to himself; build deeper faith and trust in him to care for us and guide our lives
3. Create space and opportunities for new thoughts and experiences that couldn't happen otherwise
4. Give us a new beginning to turn a corner, head in a new direction, and start fresh with new eyes
5. Bless us and bless others who need to change for the sake of continuing God's plan and purposes

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Reflection questions for us to consider:

1. When you sense the forces of change coming at you, how do you want to respond? What is your reaction? Does your response show trust and reliance on God?
2. While God may not cause everything to happen in your life, he wants to be present and meet you there. How can you look and listen for God in the change?
3. Since there is a time for everything, what time is it in your life? What does God want to do in this season? How does he want to build your faith at this time?
4. Will you be hopeful or cynical about the future?

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

Hebrews 13:8



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Sermon audio & slides in PDF can be downloaded at:
www.christiansburgmennonite.org