

Title: Giving Each Moment Its Full Opportunity

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The only moment we really have to access the abundant life of Jesus is this present moment.

*Jesus is “I Am” and He clearly calls us to live in the present moment with Him. His grace, opportunity and freedom are here, in this present moment. Really, this (present moment) is all we have. Our ability to build relationships, see clearly, grow, expand, mature is ALL in this present moment—yet we spend so much time in the past/future. At best, we try to live present with the past and future heavily filtering our heart position. Can we reset to a place where we truly realize and believe in the opportunity for abundant life that Jesus offers in each moment?

As we realize that Jesus is in this present moment—that this is our point of access to Him, why would we want to be anywhere else? And if this is the place to access His heart, doesn't it make sense that this is the best place to access our spouse's heart (and to make our heart accessible)?...in this 'holy' present moment with full awareness of 'God with us'.

*One of the most important ways we can strengthen our marriages, build strong families, and positively impact each and every one of our relationships is this—to live 'present' with one another....not just putting down our phones and giving our full attention to the person before us...but by

- changing the way we think (our mindset) about time
- establishing the right heart position toward one another
- correctly matching our actions to our goals
- processing the past and preparing for the future in a way that allows us to live in a 'holy' present (also, taking responsibility for our thoughts)
- growing in our awareness of 'God with us', and
- recognizing and being willing, even hungry, to participate in the abundant life that Jesus offers each moment

Psalm 46:10 *Be still and know that I AM God.*

- This is the invitation into every present moment with God

Koinonia

1John 1:3 *what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His son Jesus Christ*

2 Peter 1:4 *For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.*

Chronos vs. Opportunity Mindset:

chronos (G5550) = chronological or sequential time (quantitative), 57 times in 54 verses

kairos = opportune time, right time (qualitative), 93 times in 81 verses

- Chronos may be more a part of our mindset than we realize
- We need chronological time to operate in society and order our days, BUT we should not be ruled by it...our greater understanding should be of the fullness of the opportunity before us in each moment...Jesus with us, offering love, sozo healing, grace, and freedom to each and every moment
- With a chronos mindset, we adapt to the idea of time rolling along (sometimes, we even think of it as moving in both directions—or at least giving more power to past than it deserves (since it no longer exists))
- As a result, we neglect our responsibility to do our part in any given moment
 - Ex: giving life to Lord, but not making Him Lord of each moment
 - Ex: saying 'I Do' but not living 'I Do' each moment
- Or, we give too much power to a moment
 - Ex: We carry anger or shame from past as if we are helpless to deal with it
 - Ex: We live consumed by fear of future and don't take present opportunity to prepare for it
- Our expectations for our days become linked to the busyness of our calendars.
 - Empty calendar = little or no 'expectation' for the day
 - Long to-do list = hurried day with no time for interruption
- We lose sight of the (steady) opportunity of the present moment. This is where we access the Father's heart. This is where Jesus' offer of abundant life is available.
- Instead of thinking about the 5 minutes that we have, can we shift to think about the Jesus opportunity before us?
- Shift this mindset, then secure our heart position. Time as opportunity becomes our mindset and STAY becomes our heart position.

Heart Position is STAY:

- Physically and Mentally is only part of this heart position....
- Physically (but we can stay physically and not be present)
- Mentally (but we can give our attention, and not see clearly)

- My heart position is STAY, truly 'for better and worse'—and I convey this through my words, actions, and responses. I am so solidly set in this position, that when 'worse' happens, my response is 'stay.'
- I am safe and secure—'I am with you' is never in question. **When you come to me with anything--a problem or a dream, I will process it with you as if it is my own—because it is my own.**
- I am committed to seeing you clearly—and will do what I need to do to process the past and prepare for the future in a healthy way so that they do not interfere with my ability to see you and to believe with you for what is possible in the moment.

- Especially after we make a mistake, we long for this to be the way we are received—we should extend this same opportunity to our loved ones

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature.

- In Christ, we are new. The first day and every day (moment) thereafter. This should fill us with an endless supply of opportunity, possibility, and adventure (and eliminate any thoughts of boring, mundane, monotonous)

We must strive to keep each present moment 'holy'

- The minute we allow offense to take hold of us, we are anchoring ourselves in the past...**and not honoring the opportunity for forgiveness and restoration that Jesus makes available to us in the present moment.** Similarly, the minute we let fear of man take hold of us, we start to lodge ourselves into a non-existent future **and are dishonoring the opportunity for growth and freedom that Jesus makes available**

We get to choose our thoughts and to SEE through the filters we choose:

- Col 3:2 **Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on the earth.**
- 2 Cor 10:5 *We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and **we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.***

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SERMON NOTES FOR PERSONAL STUDY

- Phil 4:8 *Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, **dwell on these things.***
- Deut 30:19 *I have set before you life and death...**so choose life** in order that you may live*

Father's heart towards us is a position of STAY. We should take the same position with our relationships.

Example of potter and clay...

Jeremiah 18: 3 – 4 *Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something on the wheel. But the vessel that he was making of clay was spoiled in the hand of the potter; so he remade it into another vessel, as it pleased the potter to make...*

Rom 10: 21 (TPT) *Yet regarding Israel Isaiah says: With love I have held out my hands day after day...*

Set your eyes upon the proper horizon (don't make decisions to 'win the day'...make decisions to further your vision):

***God said it 'was good' before He finished creation—in the process, it was good. We need to get more comfortable doing the same. We are not 'playing the game' to win. We are 'playing the game' to continue, grow and expand God's family.**

***We can have a sense of urgency without an arbitrary timeline/endpoint.**

We are designed to live present/moment-by-moment in His presence:

Matt 6:33 ***But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you***

Gal 5: 16 – 18 ***But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.***

John 15: 4 – 5 ***Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.***

1 Thes 5:17 ***Pray without ceasing***

Phil 4:6 ***Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.***

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SERMON NOTES FOR PERSONAL STUDY

2 Cor 10:5 ...and we are **taking every thought captive** to the obedience of Christ

Rom 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, **to present your bodies as a living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, **but be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 8:17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we **suffer with Him** so that we may also be glorified with Him.

John 8:31-32 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you **continue in My Word**, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

Matt 6:34 So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble (and, therefore, opportunity) of its own.

We are meant to live in His presence. We are most stable when we continue in the Lord, when we seek His wisdom consistently, and do not divide our loyalties

James 1: 5 – 8 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith, without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

- Do not doubt *that you will receive wisdom from God*
 - This is not about being 100% convinced about the thing you are asking for!
 - Doubt = G1252 diakrino = to separate, to withdraw from one, desert, to separate oneself in a hostile spirit, to strive with dispute
 - We think doubt means 'not being sure'...this is more about dividing our loyalties between God and the systems of this world (Do not be conformed to this world...)
 - Having doubts in your mind does not make you 'unstable in all your ways'...wavering in loyalty between God's heart and worldly influence does (Be in the world, not of the world)
 - In fact, James takes time to remind his readers of the goodness of God --He will give generously without reproach (without condemning you for your doubts) BUT GO TO HIM for WISDOM.

- James is telling us to STAY in the Father's heart with undivided loyalty so we are not 'tossed about' and so that we have LIFE!

- **Stay** in the Father's heart, in His holy presence (ie: in the present moment, seeing clearly the opportunity before us)
 - It is only here where we can hope, expect, grow, mature, and expand

Jesus' Example (pulling us into present moment/opportunity with Him):

John 9: 1 – 3 *As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.*

- Strong argument can be made for this verse to be translated as an imperative statement rather than as an explanation. ie: It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents. **But let the works of God be manifested!**
 - 'It was so that' = G2443 hina
 - 'might be displayed' =G5319 phaneroo (aorist subjective passive form of word)
 - Similar examples are Mark 5:23, Eph 5:33, 2 Cor 8:7
 - Mark 5:23 (TPT) He pleaded with Jesus, saying over and over, "Please come with me! My little daughter is at the point of death, and she's only 12 years old! Come and lay your hands on her and heal her and she will live!"
 - As further support for this translation, see Luke 13...isn't Jesus refuting the thought that God is 'behind' every tragedy (ie: that God must have caused these things to happen...)
- **With either translation, Jesus is clearly reorienting his disciples to the present moment opportunity for healing and glorifying God.**

Mark 9: 14 – 29 (14) *When they came back to the disciples, they saw a large crowd around them, and some scribes arguing with them...(16) And He asked them, "What are you discussing with them?" (28) When He came into the house, His disciples began questioning Him privately, "Why could we not drive it out?" (29) And He said to them, "This kind cannot come out by anything but prayer (and fasting)."*

- Jesus starts by asking what they are arguing about....tells them they are without trust in God (unbelieving), then ends by suggesting that it is prayer that gets results.
- Many Greek texts leave out 'and fasting' but it is contained in the Aramaic and some Greek manuscripts (TPT).
- See Isaiah 58 (True Fasting, beginning in v. 6)
 - v. 6 – 7 Is this not the fast which I choose, To loosen the bonds of wickedness, To undo the bands of the yoke, And to let the oppressed go free and break every yoke? Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry And bring the homeless poor into the house; When you see the naked to cover him; And not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

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SERMON NOTES FOR PERSONAL STUDY

- v. 8 - 9 Then your light will break out like the dawn, And your recovery will speedily spring forth; And your righteousness will go before you; The glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; You will cry and He will say, 'Here I am.'
- IMO Jesus is contrasting His own constant presence with the Father with the peoples' wavering hearts. For example, "Why are you arguing with one another? You left your Father's heart and the present opportunity to bring healing to this boy and to glorify God. I will not always be here in this way to 'step in and save the day'. You must ABIDE in prayer (and fasting = service to others) if you hope to bring heaven to earth."
- **Jesus is teaching his disciples to remain in (prayer and fasting), reorienting them back to the Father's heart.**

John 5 The Healing at Bethesda v. 6 - 8 *When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he had already been a long time in that condition, He said to him, "Do you wish to get well?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Get up, pick up your pallet and walk."* v. 14 *Afterward, Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "Behold you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you."*

- The man at the pool is stuck in the past (victim mentality); he does not have an expectant heart for healing. When Jesus asks about healing, he responds with excuses (which is likely what he was focused on)
- **Jesus pulls him into the present opportunity for healing and restoration, then reminds him later to correct his thinking**

Fear, worry, anxiety—these emotions often come when things feel out of our control...like we've lost our place of influence. When they start to creep in, choose hope (which is an active, ongoing, present tense state) instead....because a person willing to stay present and hope is a person willing to have his imagination awakened and his mind renewed (ongoing) to his Father's perspective.

And it is in this place, in our Father's heart, sharing in His perspective that we will always have the greatest influence.