

Slide 1: Stepping into the Kairos Moments

Outreach Center on July 14, 2024

Video: Revelation with names of Jesus (7 minutes)

Isa 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Matthew - **Jesus** (save his people from their sins)

Gospels - **Son of God, Son of Man**

John - the **Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world. **only begotten Son**

The "I am" statements - **living water, bread of life, good shepherd, the door of the sheepfold, the way the truth and the life, I Am, the vine, and resurrection and the life.**

Hebrews - the **Captain/Founder of our Salvation, The Author and Perfector of our Faith.**

Colossians - the **image of the invisible God, firstborn from the dead, the head of the Church (his body)**

Revelation - **first and the last, alpha and omega, the beginning and the end, the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world, the King of kings, Lord of lords,**

Slide 2: Jesus knew his true identity. He knew his name. He also knew his task.

Luke 2:52 - "Didn't you know that I had to be about my Father's house and business?"

John 4:34 - my meat is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his task...

John 17:3 - "I have finished the task that you gave me to do" - what were those main tasks?

- The Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost,
- bear witness to the truth,
- give his life for the sheep
- He called disciples and trained them - Even when inviting them to follow him he gave them a new sense of identity and task - "Follow me, and I will **make you to become fishers of men.**"(Mark 1:17)

Slide 3: Jesus wants us to know our identity, to know our name, and to know our task - what to do!

From the beginning of calling his disciples he began giving them names or bringing new depth and meaning to their birth names

Mark 1:17 fishers of men, disciples,

John 1 - he calls out Nathanael as someone without guile or deceit,

Matt 16 - he renames Simon as Peter the rock (after confession Jesus true identity "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.")

Ephesians 5:8-10 - "At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as **children of light** [9] (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), [10] and...discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

I John 3:1 - Behold what manner of love the Father has given to us, that we should be **called the sons/children of God, and that is who we are.**"

1 Pet 2:8-9, Rev 1:5-7 - A kingdom of priests, living stones, a royal priesthood, chosen race, a holy nation.

Rev 2:12 - letter to the church in Pergamum write: The **words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword.** I know where you dwell where Satan's throne is. You **hold fast my name**, and you did **not deny my faith** even in the days of....

17 - "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers/overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a **new name written on the stone** that no one knows except the one who receives it."

Slide 4: There is a battle every day to keep us from walking in the identity, name, and tasks that God has for you.

Hebrews 4 ends with Jesus “in every respect [being] tested as we are, yet without sin.” So he understands and is able to sympathize with the weakness and force of temptation we face. Hebrews 5:2 states, “he himself is beset with weakness.” Hebrews 5:7 states how, “**In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence/reverent fear.**”

HE KNOWS WHAT WE FACE IN OUR FLESH EVERY DAY - He knows we dwell where Satan has set up his throne. He knows the pressure of the flesh that we experience. He knows the fear that would hold us back from believing, trusting, surrendering to His grace...and would keep us from living with our new name and fulfilling his work and task.

Sin not only separates from God, it also separates from who God made us to be. From our true identity, name, and purpose. Isaiah 59:1-2. *Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; [2] but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.*

Satan is the Great Reducer - his intent is to literally reduce everyone and everything so that he can be in the highest place. Satan seeks to separate us from our true identity, from God's name for us, his purpose for us.

Slide 5: What God has prepared for those who love him – God reveals to us through the Spirit!

But God has a totally opposite desire. In I Corinthians 2:9-10 we are told, “*What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined — what God has prepared for those who love him*”— *these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.*”

Leading up to this passage, it is noted in verse 8 that “*none of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.*”

We are called by God to overcome, to conquer, and to fulfill the good works that he has prepared for us and experience the fulfillment of his purpose for us. We are encouraged to step into a life of absolute surrender to the Holy Spirit and His revealed purpose.

Slide 6: The Cross does more than cleanse and release us from our sins, it gives us a new future and vocation.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21. “Therefore, if **anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.** The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. [18] All this is from God, who through Christ **reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;** [19] that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. [20] Therefore, **we are ambassadors for Christ,** God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. [21] For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Reconciliation to Christ also reconciles us to become the people we were created to be and prepares us for what he has for us to do. As new creations in Christ, we become ministers of reconciliation, ambassadors for Christ, and the righteousness of God in Christ!

Slide 7: Juba, South Sudan and Dr. Alex Bolek

I returned from my second trip to Africa on June 15th. It was my 2nd two week trip since April 1st. During these two visits we met with several organizations in Kenya, Ethiopia, and South Sudan. The theme of these meetings has been “transformation.” How does the Gospel do more than save a person from judgement for their sins? How does the Gospel transform their identity and impact as God's children? How can that transformation change families and communities?

In Juba, South Sudan I visited the Kworojik Community among the Mundari people (they now call me Dan Mundari after being adopted by them). My host and project partners, Dr. Alex Bolek, a family doctor in Juba, grew up in a small Mundari village about 5 hours by car north of this community. His village was a typical rural African village without water, sanitation, or electricity. They also had constant civil war and conflict. He says, "I was born into civil war, grew up with civil war, and lived in civil war virtually all of my life." He was a good student in their simple village school. He went on to college, and then was able to go to Romania to study medicine. During this time he found and gave his life to Jesus.

After finishing medical school, God spoke to him out of Zechariah 11:17, "*Woe to my worthless shepherd, who deserts the flock!*" He had "escaped" South Sudan and civil war and had the opportunity for a different life. But God was calling him back to South Sudan - he was not to abandon his people. So he returned.

He is a family doctor who has built a clinic in a poor district of Juba - one that was populated by refugees. He is not a pastor, yet he is constantly ministering to and caring for people, discipling others, and giving of his time generously and lovingly. He leads by example and has a tremendous influence as the General Secretary of the Africa ICMDA (International Christian Medical Doctors and Dentists Association). The thing that has impressed me is that Dr. Alex is a humble, servant-hearted, hard-working doctor. He knows the word of God and applies it to everything he does. Our conversations are rich in the truth of Scripture, while at the same time intensely practical. He is a decisive man of action. I have learned (and am learning much from him!

When I asked local village leaders what their vision was for graduates from the school they were repairing, they pointed to Dr. Alex saying, "We want to have more people like Dr. Alex. Who will come back to serve and lead our people."

Slide 8: Delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred to the kingdom of his beloved Son.

I think the Apostle Paul was perhaps thinking about this kind of person when he writes this letter to the Colossians. Colossians 1:3-14 "[3] *We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, [4] since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus...the word of the truth, the gospel, [6] which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—you heard and understood the grace of God in truth...[9] We have not ceased to pray...asking that you may be:*

- * *filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, [10]...to:*
 - * *walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him:*
 - * *bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; [11] being*
 - * *strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance...*
- [12] *giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. [13] He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, [14] in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."*

In Ephesians 2:8-9, Paul wrote, "*We are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works that he has prepared beforehand for us to walk in.*"

But, this simple sense of identity and task for every believer has been somehow lost through the years as the church became more "sophisticated" and socialized. The concept and role of professional pastors and leaders has changed the mindset of the average believer to be just a layman – a consumer of spiritual instruction. From being a fisher of men, seeking, reaching, and having an active "producer" role ---- to being someone with needs to be met.

Slide 9: Can We Awaken the Sleeping Giant?

A 1968, an article in Christianity Today, was titled, **Can We Awaken the Sleeping Giant?** The author made some hard statements about the average person in the pew. — "*The problem [with the Church] is that the man in the pew has lost interest in doing anything about the main challenges ...If the man in the pew is uninterested, if he does not give tangible meaning to his asserted belief that he should love his brother as himself, then God himself will have been killed by the*

very ones who call themselves His children.... Here is the Church's weakest link: those who confess Christ and then do nothing for him. (by Ronn Spargue, 1968)

A couple of years after the 1968, **Don Leetch's article, Ministers with Soiled Hands**, was published in New Wine magazine. Don wrote:

"It is our conviction that God wants ministers with soiled hands...not the soil of sin, but of labor, hard work, and harvest. God's ministers are found in unlikely spots doing unusual tasks. This is not a profession, but a calling. They are not identified by distinctive garb, but by radiant spirits and unswerving purpose to fulfill the will of God...The New Testament believers understood this...in their witness they understood that soul-winning was not to be relegated with the confines of the four wall [of the church]." (by Don Leetch, 1971)

Jesus said in Matthew 5:13 *"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet."* He also noted that we are "the light of the world" and that light does no good if it is hidden under a basket!

Don and Dean, while pastors of two churches in So Cal, got to know each other in the early 1960's. They began meeting regularly and asking questions about their calling and expressions of ministry. They were compelled to change the way they viewed ministry and then in answer to the question, **"If we only have 10 years left to live, will we keep doing what we're doing?" The answer was "NO." In 1963, they left their churches** and began a journey that led to starting **Gospel Outreach**, a missionary organization engaged in literature evangelism. And, in 1971 **Outreach Publications** was founded, which became DaySpring Greeting Cards. They wanted to get their hands dirty doing what they could in their generation to make Christ known. In 1975, shortly after Dona and I moved to So Cal to finish schooling, we joined **Outreach Center**, which met at the **GO House (Gospel Outreach House)** in Azusa, CA and I began working at **Outreach Publications. If by chance you haven't noticed, the common word was "Outreach."**

Don and Dean, and Roy and Russ, were compelled to get outside of the walls of the local church and reach people where they lived and worked, across the US, and to the nations.

They could have talked themselves out of this life altering move. But they didn't! There were lots of moments of being overwhelmed and overburdened by financial needs, weariness, even discouraged. But when the moments came, they (and their wives) kept choosing forward – desperately crying out to God for his assurance and assistance.

Slide 10: Chronos Time and Kairos Moments

God has a purpose and a name for each of us. He wants us to know that name. He also has a task and tasks for us to do. But so often we go through life hesitant and fearful to step into our true identity as God's children. When confronted with the situations where we could step forward and serve, say a word of encouragement, pray for someone in need, or just listen, we are pull back.

Jamie Winship has written a book that conveys a powerful message about Living Fearlessly. He writes, *"There are two kinds of time: Chronos and Kairos. Chronos refers to minutes and seconds. It refers to time as a measurable resource. Kairos means an appointed time, an opportune moment, or a due season.*

All humans walking out their days in chronos time experience kairos moments. We really don't lose or waste time. It doesn't move. Time is merely the measurement of movement of objects in space. Here is the good news. Kairos events will not pass you by when you aren't looking. It can take one day or seventy-five years, but you will arrive at these kairos moments as long as you keep walking forward in your true identity.

Will you let fear, guilt and shame stop you from moving forward? Like the fearful Israelites, you can say no to God's kairos moments for you. Don't make that mistake."

God walks with us in the Chronos and stirs and nudges us regarding the Kairos moments. The Holy Spirit reveals to us the good purposes and workings of God. Phil 1:6 *“I am sure of this that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”*

Stepping into these Kairos moments and opportunities requires faith. Hebrews 10:35-39 exhorts, *“Don’t throw away your confidence, it has great reward, you have need of endurance so that when you have done the will of God you will receive what is promised. For yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls [or possess life]!”*

Will we act in faith, not shrink back, but rather press forward to the possessing of life!!!

Slide 11: Taking a step of faith – doing what we can

I’d like to circle back to Juba, South Sudan. Three and a half years ago a nearby village raided the Kworojik village and destroyed their school. They also experienced extreme hunger and trauma. Today, they are wanting to rebuild their school. After visiting this village in early April I went back in early June to work with Dr. Alex and village leaders on rebuilding the school and addressing other needs.

When meeting with leaders of the village and members of a church, I saw the beginnings of a shift take place in this Kworojik community. It was an amazing thing to see as God moved their perspective and their hearts to generously and joyfully give to rebuild their school. It encouraged me and them to see the shift in their perspective and belief in who they were in Christ. Yesterday morning I received pictures of the roof being put onto their school. The rebuilding has begun!!

Our job is to be agents of God’s truth and vision for each person. He is moving. What challenges me is that the Holy Spirit is applying the truth of God’s Word to their own lives and situation they have been facing.

These past couple of days Dan Gowin, Steve Ritz, Dave Leetch, Darren Kerns, and Drew Morris and I met to pray, and begin a strategic planning process. There is a tangible sense that God is moving and working. We are asking God what he wants us to know, and what he wants us to do. I believe that you are asking the same things for your own lives.

God will ask you what you have in your hand. He will ask you to do what you can do. He will ask you to do so individually and he will ask you corporately. I want to encourage you to not shrink back but to press forward in the the Kairos moments. Have your eyes and ears open.

Slide 12: The Truth

Here are few takeaways...

- Every person is created by God, loved by God, and has been given gifts and abilities by God.
- God has prepared each of us for good works as his agents in his kingdom.
- God releases His power when we surrender all we are and have to him.
- No matter how small the gift, in God’s hands it is enough.

Psalm 25:12-15. *“Who is the man who fears the LORD? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose. [13] His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land. [14] The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant. [15] My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for he will pluck my feet out of the net.”*

Revelation 1:5-6 states, “*Jesus Christ...loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood [6] and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father...*” Everyone who has been freed from sin by Christ’s blood is made to be a kingdom (community), and priests to God and as II Corinthians 5:17-21 says, as “*new creations in Christ*” we have the “*ministry of reconciliation*” and are “*ambassadors of Christ*” and “*in Him become the righteousness of God.*” And, Ephesians 2:10 “*We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*” This represents a major mindset change. In Christ we are not victims, we are not powerless, we are not alone. We are members of a new community/kingdom with Christ as the head, and we are commissioned and empowered to be agents of transformation, and God has prepared good works for everyone to walk in.

Stories and Themes

The 3 men who received promises, visions, and callings, yet had to wait patiently for a long period of time - Joseph (who received a prophetic vision at 17 years of age), David (was anointed to be king as at 17 years old), and Moses (who acted on his urge and desire to bring deliverance to his people when he was 40 years old)

Luke 2:49-52. And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.”

During seasons of waiting for vision to come to fruition, during liminal seasons, times of new beginnings, formative times, reset times, transitional processes, recognition of coming change, and anticipation of new assignments - what attitudes and commitments.

Living with purpose in all situations and seasons.

7 Commitments for life in transition

Becoming Whole by Brian Fikkert
Secular and Theological Frameworks
Traditional Religions/Spiritism
Western Naturalism/Materialism
Evangelical Gnosticism
Historic Christianity/Kingdom Mindset