



WEDNESDAY EVENING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: While It Is Day

Passage: John 4:35-38

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: When John G. Paton announced his mission to a South Pacific island known for cannibalism, a concerned elder warned him, "You will be eaten!" Paton famously replied that it mattered little whether he was consumed by cannibals or by worms, so long as he served the Lord. Despite facing the tragic loss of his family and constant threats to his life, Paton's persistence eventually transformed the islands. His story serves as a piercing rebuke to the "procrastination of good intentions," reminding us that the greatest obstacle to the Great Commission isn't a lack of heart, but the dangerous assumption that there will always be more time to go.

I. The Temptation to Delay (Verse 35a)

Delay feels harmless because it doesn't look like disobedience. But the danger of delay is that harvest does not wait for our schedules.

Souls do not pause. Hearts do not remain soft indefinitely. Doors do not stay open forever. Every time we say "later," we assume time is guaranteed.

II. The Reality of the Moment (Verse 35b)

Jesus doesn't argue with their calendar, He challenges their perspective.

The problem was not that the harvest wasn't ready. The problem was that the disciples weren't looking.



WEDNESDAY EVENING
AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Prayer Focus for Tonight:

1. Pray That We Would Not Make Excuses for Delay

- Ask God to search our hearts and reveal where we have said “later” instead of “yes.”
- Pray that we would not disguise delay as wisdom, caution, or good intentions.
- Ask God to show us where we have waited for better timing or allowed comfort and fear to slow obedience.
- Pray for hearts ready to obey now.

2. Pray That We Would See the Harvest as God Sees It

- Ask God to change our vision and help us see people as souls ready for the gospel.
- Pray that we would see urgency where we’ve grown numb, opportunity where we’ve assumed resistance, and readiness where we’ve assumed indifference.
- Ask God to help us look at the world through His eyes, not through fear or fatigue.

3. Pray That God Would Do for Others What He Has Done for Us

- Thank God for those who prayed, gave, and shared so we could hear the gospel.
- Acknowledge that we are here because someone did not delay.
- Ask God to help us pass forward what we have received.
- Pray that others would have the same opportunity, that no one would miss the gospel because of our inaction, and that our church would be faithful to this generation.