

## Kairos: Time for Action

### Gideon

**Kairos:** a time when conditions are right for the accomplishment of a crucial action : the opportune and decisive moment. The ancient Greeks had two words for time, *chronos* referring to sequential time, and *kairos*, a moment of indeterminate time in which events happen. What is happening when referring to *kairos* depends on who is using the word. While *chronos* is quantitative, *kairos* has a qualitative, permanent nature.

*Refers to a Time for Action or “God’s Time”*

### **Chronos (Our Time) Vs. Kairos (God’s Time)**

Luke 12:54-56 (NIV)

<sup>54</sup> He said to the crowd: “When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, ‘It’s going to rain,’ and it does. <sup>55</sup> And when the south wind blows, you say, ‘It’s going to be hot,’ and it is. <sup>56</sup>

Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don’t know how to interpret this present time?

Here Jesus tells them that they can read the time of day, or even the weather from looking at the sky...but they can not interpret what God is doing and who Jesus is. They can read the *chronos* (hours and seconds), but miss the *Kairos* moment before them in the person of Jesus!

Ephesians 5:15-16

**15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.**

**Are we wise enough, and careful enough to recognize the God given opportunities in our life?  
Are we sensitive to God’s will?**

Over this series we will be looking at the following characters and their response in their *Kairos* moment. We will look at Gideon, Joshua, Peter, and Nehemiah. What separates these characters in the Bible from others is their ability to recognize “God’s time” and respond appropriately. Each of them is presented with a call that challenges what they think of God, and of themselves. They must combat those lies and follow God whole heartedly. They are all willing to surrender their own plans and because they responded when God spoke, they were able to be effective for God. They each display defining characteristics which help them hear, respond, and obey God.

***“There are times in your life which require you to adjust your normal routine and pay special attention. Look carefully for those seasons and listen for God’s voice of wisdom. Be careful. Be wise. Pay attention. Recognize and respond to kairos moments and seasons in your life. The pace, pressure, and demands of chronos can cause you to miss the kairos. Don’t get so caught up in the minutes that you miss the moments.***

## ***The Lord is calling.”***

Goal of this study:

*The goal of the study is to help you recognize what God has been trying to lead them to do, and then respond. We want to reveal to you the lies that keep you from recognizing God’s call, and are keeping you from responding. Whether you are a believer or not, our goal is to help you go from faith to faith. We want you to see that God is speaking, and it is time for action. In each character’s life God asks them to do tough things, but always reveals something greater on the other side. Do not miss the Kairos moments that God presents in your life!*

**Lets Begin with a study from Gideon, and this Kairos moment that God calls him to.**

### **Judges 6:11-16**

<sup>11</sup> The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. <sup>12</sup> When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, “The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.”

<sup>13</sup> “Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.”

<sup>14</sup> The Lord turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?”

<sup>15</sup> “Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.”

<sup>16</sup> The Lord answered, “I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive.”

### **God’s Call/Word- Vrs. 11**

The mercy of this passage is that the Word comes to Gideon. Gideon is not seeking out the Lord here, neither are the people..but God is seeking out Gideon.

**Kairos' moments are always initiated by God.**

Gideon is no hero, but yet..God speaks. And presents him with a Kairos moment. A time for action. A moment of truth. God is the hero here. God comes into chronos moments (our time) to present us with Kairos moments (God’s time).

*The call of God is not about who he calls, but the one who calls.*

*And these moments when God speaks always demand a response. **God does not speak for information sake, but transformation sake.***

And so it was a time for action. God speaks these words to Gideon:

**“The Lord is with you, mighty warrior”**

God’s word immediately contradicts what Gideon thought about God, and what he thought about himself. He could not imagine that God was with them. And he could not imagine that he could be called “Mighty”

God says two things: I am with you, and calls him a mighty warrior.

Notice something else: God first says, “I am with you” and then says “mighty warrior”. This is important because being a mighty warrior in God’s kingdom is not about personal strength, but about a personal God. The moment God stepped in and called Gideon..he became mighty. Not because his strength had changed, but because the nature of his relationship with God had changed.

***Kairos moments always challenge us to think more highly of God, and less of ourselves.***

### **Gideon’s First Question- Vrs 13**

**There are four lies we can use to hide behind when God calls us. There are 4 misunderstandings that can keep us blind and stagnant. Lets walk through these lies that Gideon faces, and how God addresses them.**

**Lie 1: It is the wrong time and the wrong place.**

*Notice what Gideon says:*

“If the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us?”

In other words, “if God was with me, why does my life look like this?”

Gideon says this, “My people have gone through pain, suffering. The Midianites have ravaged our land. Oppressed our people. Left us in ruin. Yet you say, “God is with us.” Of all times, this would seem like the most unexpected for God to come and speak to me.

He hid behind this idea. He says, God is not here. God is not with us. So how can he speak to us? He can’t possibly be speaking to us right here, right now.

Not only were the Israelites being ravaged by the Midianites, but notice what Gideon is presently doing. He is threshing wheat in a wine press. Hiding!

So he is in the midst of a ravaged people, trying to hide food so it doesn't get stolen..and God shows up. At an unexpected time, and unexpected place..God speaks and Gideon could not recognize the presence of God!

Gideon's people had to fight to protect their resources, and fighting for food wasn't a unique situation. And in the midst of the struggle of trying to make it ...he could not recognize how God had made His way in. He had believed the lie that, it's not the right time or place for God to speak to me.

**Gideon remembers the past and what God has done, but those things have just become past stories rather than present miracles.**

And now all he can see is his present suffering.

*We must not allow past pain, and present suffering, to keep us from receiving the word of God, or recognizing the presence of God!*

*Sometimes we are so busy running, fighting, and hiding to hear the God who steps into our situation.*

**He was so caught up in the minutes and seconds of his life that he missed the moment!**

The Israelites' suffering was never about God abandoning them, but was about the people abandoning God. They had worshiped other gods. Did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. Did what was right in their own eyes.

God was always there. God was always calling. He was waiting for a more favorable time to see God..but God showed up.

**Truth 1: God is speaking, and today is the day of salvation.**

**2 Corinthians 6:2 For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.**

**The question is not whether God is here, or whether he is speaking. The question is whether we are listening!**

Gideon's mind was on his problem, and not His God..and so, he could not imagine God stepping into his situation.

Hear me: some of us do not recognize our Kairos moment and call to action, because we are saying, "Can't happen today." or "God feels so far away".

God is speaking right here, and right now...can you hear Him. Is your mind on your bills, your relationship problems, your work problems, health problems?

Today is your day. And it was Gideon's day..that everything was about to shift..but the lie keeps him from responding to the call.

### Questions:

What in your life has been keeping you from believing God can move?

Are you so busy trying to save yourself daily, that you miss your savior daily?

Are you waiting to get it together before you follow God?

Is there something that has happened in your life that has made you mad at God that is keeping you from hearing his voice?

### How do we know if we are believing this lie?

You will allow past failures, present suffering to keep you from seeing God.

You will always look to some future time of when you will get it together, so that then you will do what God is asking you to do.

The stories of God's faithfulness have turned to "myths" in your heart. Notice how else Gideon tries to hide from this call:

God says "I am with **you**" but Gideon responds, "If God is with **us**.." God speaks to Gideon personally, but he appears to struggle with this because he turns it back to "us" or all of Israel.

Gideon gets something right, and something wrong here

First he gets it right because he understands, "The call to me...is not about me, its about **us**, the people".

But he misses something:

This call, though for the benefit of the people, was a personal call to Gideon.

### Lie 2: God's call is for someone else to do, but not for me.

God didn't say "I am with you" as in "I am with you all". He meant to help Gideon see he is with him personally. God was certainly with his nation, but this call was personal!

*God's Word, though for the benefit of others, is always personal and intimate.*

God was speaking personally and intimately to Gideon.

It can be easy to hear God's word and miss that this isn't just general guidance, this is specific and personal guidance.

This was to the heart of Gideon. God says, I am with **you!**

When you sit in a service on Sunday morning, God is speaking to you personally. Though the message is to the church, God speaks to individual hearts. Don't hear a message and say "that is for them". No..this is for you.

It can be easy to hear a message and say, "We have to do better." Instead of, "I have to do better."

God presses in again on the personal nature of this call in Vrs. 14

**The Lord turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"**

**God says go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you.**

**God clearly makes this personal. He says *you* go! I am sending *you!***

**God leaves Gideon with no wiggle room here. He is face to face with a call to action, and God is speaking right to Him. God says I am sending *you.***

God is speaking! He is calling, but are we listening?

For too long we have come to church, heard God speak..and remained stagnant. We sit as one person in the congregation, and think, that isn't for me.

God is calling *them* to serve, *them* to give, *them* to forgive, *them* to sing, *them* to connect...not me.

We can no longer hide, God is knocking on your door. And you know it!

**Truth 2: God speaks to us all personally and sets us apart for His purpose.**

Jeremiah 1:5

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew[a] you,  
before you were born I set you apart;  
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

Today, I'm leaving us with no wiggle room. If you walk away and choose to not respond, you can not say it is because God is not here, or he is not speaking to you!

You see, hiding in the crowd is nice because it feels like we can take what we want from the message without getting too personal. **We want to get close enough to God to get blessed, but not close enough to be stretched.**

**But we don't get blessed by being around Jesus. We get blessed by knowing Jesus personally!**

Stop looking around to other people!

There were many crowds who touched shoulders with Jesus and still walked away unchanged. Their time for action was right there...yet they thought they could receive it without getting too personal and intimate!

On the other hand, a woman with the issue of blood changes from someone in the crowd and a woman with issue of blood..and says "If I can just touch the hem of His robe, I can be healed"

She says even if Jesus is here for more people than me..I will make it personal..and I will not miss what I need.

### Questions

How close to Jesus are you willing to get?

Are you willing to transition from someone in the pews, or in the crowd...to a personal and intimate relationship?

Have you allowed family, friends, or others perceptions to keep you from personally receiving from God what you need?

### How do we know if we have believed this lie?

When God leads you to pray, serve, lead, go, trust...you start worrying about others' perception of you.

You will hide in the crowd and make excuses by saying...there is someone else that can do that.

Once God addressed those lies, and Gideon could no longer hide that God was speaking to him personally...notice what he does now. He says this in Vrs. 15:

**Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family."**

**Lie 3: I am too weak to be used by God.**

**The first lies came from a misunderstanding about who God was. He thought that God wasn't present, wasn't working, and couldn't speak to Him personally. This lie came from a misunderstanding of who God can use.**

Gideon says I am the weakest in my tribe, and from the least tribe. "I can't possibly do this." "Why would God call me?"

Notice what God says in verse 16:

**The Lord answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive."**

He says simply, I am with you! In other words.. "don't you know who is with you?"

Also notice that God doesn't argue with Gideon. He doesn't say that Gideon isn't weak, or that he isn't the least in his tribe. God reminds Gideon of His power.

***Your weakness is not a problem for God. The problem is that you thought your strength helped God.***

***The truth is yes, Gideon can't do it..but God can.***

**Truth 3: Your weakness was never a problem for God, and your strength was never an advantage.**

*Your call is not predicated on your strength, God doesn't need your strength. It is not that we are too weak to be used by God, it is that we believe our call is about our strength. .*

***Your Kairos moment will be dependent on you trusting in God's strength when you feel weak.***

***When God wants to encourage us forward, he never points to something in us. He points to something in Himself.***

**Stop saying, "I am too weak to be used by God." If you believe your weakness is a disadvantage to following God, then you also must believe your strength is an advantage.**

We only complain about our weaknesses when we've learned to rejoice in our strengths.

Weakness, and what you can't do, can only talk you out of following God when your strength (and what you can do) can talk you into following God.

But both are errors. It is not our weakness or strength that is the question. It is all about the call and caller. Will we respond in trust even when we feel God call us to more than we can do.

God says, "I am sending you"



**God is here. God is speaking. God is calling you! And you can not hide behind what you can not do!**

**Let's look at another quick example of this when God calls Moses.**

### **Exodus 4:10-12**

**10** Moses said to the LORD, "Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue."

**11** The LORD said to him, "Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the LORD? **12** Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."

Moses says the same thing. And he almost allowed this lie to keep him from being obedient had God not shown mercy to Him.

### **Exodus 4:13-15**

**13** But Moses said, "Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else."

**14** Then the LORD's anger burned against Moses and he said, "What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and he will be glad to see you. **15** You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do.

*Here is the lesson, **it's hard to hear God speak when you've already determined what He can or can not ask you to do.** Moses said, "send someone else!"*

### **Questions:**

**How many victories have you missed out on because God had to send someone else to do what he called you to do?**

**How many times have you told God, "I am too weak to do that"?**

**Have you already decided for God what you can or can not do?**

### **How do we know if we are guilty of believing this lie?**

**We refuse to offer God a blank check with our lives. We put limits on how far we will go and what we will do.**

**We are so afraid to fail God, we fail to follow God. We are so afraid to mess up, we mess up what it means to follow God. We want so bad to seem strong that we make God seem weak!**

**Lets keep reading what Gideon does in Judges 7:  
Judges 7:1-9**

Then Jerubbaal, also known as Gideon, got up early along with all of his soldiers. They encamped near the Harod Spring. The Midian encampment lay in the valley to their north, near the hill of Moreh. <sup>2</sup>The Lord told Gideon, “You have too many soldiers with you for me to drop Midian into their hands, because Israel would become arrogant and say, ‘It was my own abilities that delivered me.’ <sup>3</sup>That’s why you’re to ask in full view of the soldiers, “Whoever is afraid or is trembling may go back from Mount Gilead and return home.”<sup>[a]</sup> So 22,000 soldiers left and 10,000 remained.

<sup>4</sup>“There are still too many soldiers,” the Lord told Gideon. “Bring them down to the water and I’ll refine them for you there. Therefore when I say to you, ‘This one will be going with you,’ he’ll go with you, but no one may go about whom I tell you, ‘This one won’t be going with you.’”

<sup>5</sup>So he brought his soldiers down to the water, and the Lord told Gideon, “You are to cull out everyone who laps up water with his tongue like a dog from everyone who kneels to drink.” <sup>6</sup>The contingent of soldiers who lapped water<sup>[b]</sup> with their hands to their mouths numbered 300 men, but everyone else kneeled to drink water.

<sup>7</sup>Then the Lord told Gideon, “I’m going to deliver you with the 300 soldiers who lapped by giving the Midianites into your control. Send everyone else back to their own homes.”<sup>[c]</sup>

<sup>8</sup>So the soldiers took provisions with them, along with their trumpets, and Gideon<sup>[d]</sup> sent all the rest of the soldiers of Israel back to their own tents, but he retained the 300 men. And the Midian encampment was below him in the valley.

God tells Gideon this...you actually have too many warriors. Because if I give you the victory now, Israel will think they did it!

So God actually makes the army smaller, and the people weaker in effect.

**Lie 4: God is most glorified in my strength and success.**

**Gideon heard the call, said ok God is speaking to me, but he set out to follow with so many warriors that he would have got the glory, and the people would have believed they were the heroes of the story.**

One of the most subtle lies of a call, and this Kairos moment by God, is that it can make us prideful...and we can make ourselves the center of this “good thing.”

*God only knows how many churches, missionary societies, charities, colleges, crusades, reforms, and acts of philanthropic generosity have trumpeted the call of God and advanced their leaders’ egos. In a*

*generation's time this flaw will probably be seen as the single greatest problem of the megachurch movement. More than any part of the church of Christ should, today's big churches and parachurch organizations rise and fall by the strength of a single person. "My cause (whatever it is) is God's gift to the world," the heroic founder says in effect. "His (or her) calling (whatever it is) is God's gift to our cause," loyal followers repeat in a hundred reverent ways. So the call of God is enlisted to camouflage ego, stifle disagreement, excuse failure, decry opposition, and gild the commemorative plaques of success. -The Call by OS Guinness*

God said, I can deliver you with all these people..but if I deliver you from the people, but don't deliver you from your self-reliance...you are no better off, and I get no glory.

If I give you the victory now, you will think this is about you. If God allows us to operate in our strengths and what we believe we can do, then we get the glory!

**Truth 4: God is most glorified in your weakness!**

**Weakness is not a problem for God..it is a necessity!**

**God had to make Gideon weaker, not stronger. Because self-reliance leaves no room for God's power to be revealed.**

**What if God needs you weaker, not stronger to do what he has called you to do? What if we have relied too much on our own strengths and abilities?**

God could've given Gideon rescue from the Midianites with however many people he wanted..but the fact he didn't tells me that God's first priority is God's glory.

This also means that the calling God gives to each of us is not first about us, or about some mission...it is about the glory of God.

**God's call is not about you. Which is why your weakness is necessary.**

**In 2 Corinthians 12, Paul quotes Jesus who said, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."**

**God wants to reveal His power, so we must be weaker, not stronger!**

**Strength means we rest in what makes us look good. Walking in weakness means we are resting in what makes God look good!**

Understand..this Kairos moment is not about you. You are not at the center of what God is doing. **The gospel may be for you..but it is not about you!**

It's about God! The reason we miss our Kairos moment is because we think that it is suppose to bring us glory. It is not. It is to bring God glory!

**Ezekiel 36:22**

**Therefore say to the Israelites, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: It is not for your sake, people of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone.**

**God made a promise to these people, and keeps it for his name sake. God does all this not because of us, but in spite of us. He does it because His name and reputation is that important.**

**What am I saying: Gideon learned that God entered into his present, was calling him personally, was going to use Him in his weakness...and that God was doing it all for His glory!**

**Gideon had no excuse..and neither do we! It was a call to action, and God revealed all the lies which tempted him to stay stagnant.**

*Let me close with this sobering story:*

*Deuteronomy 1:23-34 (Sum it up)*

**23** *The idea seemed good to me; so I selected twelve of you, one man from each tribe. 24* *They left and went up into the hill country, and came to the Valley of Eshkol and explored it. 25* *Taking with them some of the fruit of the land, they brought it down to us and reported, "It is a good land that the LORD our God is giving us."*

**Rebellion Against the LORD**

**26** *But you were unwilling to go up; you rebelled against the command of the LORD your God. 27* *You grumbled in your tents and said, "The LORD hates us; so he brought us out of Egypt to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us. 28* *Where can we go? Our brothers have made our hearts melt in fear. They say, 'The people are stronger and taller than we are; the cities are large, with walls up to the sky. We even saw the Anakites there.'"*

**29** *Then I said to you, "Do not be terrified; do not be afraid of them. 30* *The LORD your God, who is going before you, will fight for you, as he did for you in Egypt, before your very eyes, 31* *and in the wilderness. There you saw how the LORD your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place."*

*32 In spite of this, you did not trust in the LORD your God, 33 who went ahead of you on your journey, in fire by night and in a cloud by day, to search out places for you to camp and to show you the way you should go.*

*34 When the LORD heard what you said, he was angry and solemnly swore: 35 "No one from this evil generation shall see the good land I swore to give your ancestors, 36 except Caleb son of Jephunneh. He will see it, and I will give him and his descendants the land he set his feet on, because he followed the LORD wholeheartedly."*

God tells the Israelites to go into the promised land. It was their call to action! This was their moment! But fear, their own weakness, kept them from entering in. God told them that the whole generation would not enter the promised land but that their children would!

The wild thing is that when God judged them, they changed their mind and set out to go into the promised land. They said, "OK, Ok..we will trust you. We will go now!" But it was too late. They were defeated. They waited but the moment had passed.

If they had known what it would have cost them not to respond...I am sure they would have done it. But it was too late. The consequences were more severe than they could have imagined!

**Question: What confidence do you have that not doing what God has called you to do today will not have consequences more dire than you can imagine?**

**You may say, trusting God costs alot. Well so does not trusting God. What will not responding to God cost you? What will it cost your family? What will it cost your children? Your marriage? Your future?**

**This is your Kairos moment. Today is the day.**

**Do not put it off.**

**The truth is this:**

**God is here right here right now!**

**He is speaking to you personally!**

**Your weakness is not a problem and your strength is not an advantage!**

**God is calling you for his glory! Will you allow yourself to be weak enough to follow?**

**What will it cost you if you don't?**

You may not get an answer for every question you ask, but it's never the wrong time to ask