



Peninsula City Church

The Easter Season

The Right Timing?

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Contents

The Right Timing?.....3

Introduction3

1. It’s not My time yet!3

2. My time has come4

Some concluding thoughts.....5

The Right Timing?

Introduction

Q. Do you know that everything has a set time?

If someone were to ask you this question, how would you answer him or her? What would you draw on as your authoritative source for your answer? Well the Bible in the book of Ecclesiastes, written by King Solomon offers some wisdom on this matter. For example,

¹ “For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. ² A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to harvest. ³ A time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build up. ⁴ A time to cry and a time to laugh, a time to grieve and a time to dance. ⁵ A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones, a time to embrace and a time to turn away. ⁶ A time to search and a time to quit searching, a time to keep and a time to throw away. ⁷ A time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be quiet and a time to speak. ⁸ A time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace” (Eccl 3:1-8 NLT).

Notice that one of the set times that he put forward was “a time to die.” However, not everyone agrees with this proposal that there is a set time to die. For example, in a *Time*, magazine article entitled “The Fine Art of Dying Well,” Pulitzer-Prize-winning columnist Charles Krauthammer made some interesting comments on the death of Jesus.

“Truly, too early died that Hebrew whom the preachers of slow death honor: and that he died too early has since been a fatality for many. As yet he knew only tears and the melancholy of the Hebrews, together with the hatred of the good and the just - the Hebrew Jesus: then the longing for death seized him. Had he only remained in the desert and far from the good and the just! Perhaps he would have learned to live and learned to love the earth - and laughter as well... Believe it, my brothers! He died too early; he himself would have recanted his teaching had he lived to my age! He was noble enough to recant! But he was still immature.”¹

It has been suggested that,

“Three times Zarathustra insists that the death of Jesus came ‘too early.’ While Zarathustra suggests there was indeed a voluntary component to the death of Jesus, its tragic pre-maturity essentially prevents the Nazarene from achieving the elusive well-timed ‘good death’.”²

Therefore, their conclusion was that Jesus’ death was tragically pre-mature. However, what does the Bible have to say on this matter? In fact, does it record Jesus’ thoughts on the timing of His death?

1. It’s not My time yet!

Q. What were Jesus’ thoughts on the timing of His death?

Well to begin with, Jesus came to earth in the will of God. Paul in the letter to the Galatians said that,

“But when the right time came, God sent His Son, born of a woman, subject to the law” (Gal 4:4 NLT).

So, it was no mistake that Jesus came to earth when He did, it was all under control. This should be of great comfort to you, as God knew exactly what He was doing when He sent Jesus.

¹ Krauthammer, Charles. “The Fine Art of Dying Well: Courage and dignity are crucial, but the noble death often depends on luck.” In *Time*, March 12, 2007. <http://content.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1595226,00.html> (3rd March 2016).

² Rempel, Morgan. “Dying At The Right Time.” In *Philosophy Now*. 2009. https://philosophynow.org/issues/76/Dying_At_The_Right_Time (3rd March 2016).

Luke in his gospel recorded that Jesus time to die had not yet come. For example,

²⁸ “When they heard this, the people in the synagogue were furious. ²⁹ Jumping up, they mobbed Him (Jesus) and forced Him to the edge of the hill on which the town was built. They intended to push Him over the cliff, ³⁰ but He passed right through the crowd and went on His way.” (Lk 4:28-30 NLT).

John in his gospel also recorded that it was not Jesus’ time to die. For example,

“Some even wanted Him arrested, but no one laid a hand on Him” (Jn 7:44 NLT).

“At that point they picked up stones to throw at Him. But Jesus was hidden from them and left the Temple” (Jn 8:59 NLT).

³¹ “Once again the people picked up stones to kill Him... ³⁹ Once again they tried to arrest Him, but He got away and left them” (Jn 10:31,39 NLT).

He also knew that it was getting close to beginning to focus on going to Jerusalem,

⁶ “Jesus replied, ‘Now is not the right time for Me to go, but you (His brothers) can go anytime.’

⁸ You go on. I’m not going to this festival, because My time has not yet come” (Jn 7:6,8 NLT).

Jesus knew that it was only when His time was right that the religious leaders would be able to take Him into custody,

“Then the leaders tried to arrest Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because His time had not yet come” (Jn 7:30 NLT).

“Jesus made these statements while He was teaching in the section of the Temple known as the Treasury. But He was not arrested, because His time had not yet come” (Jn 8:20 NLT).

The timing of Jesus’ death as the Saviour was all according to the will of God. He would die at a set time.

2. My time has come

Q. Is this His time to die?

It has been recorded by Matthew that Jesus knew that His time had now come to die,

“From then on Jesus began to tell His disciples plainly that it was necessary for Him to go to Jerusalem, and that He would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day He would be raised from the dead” (Matt 16:21 NLT; see also Mk 8:31; Lk 9:22).

“‘As you go into the city,’ He told them, ‘you will see a certain man. Tell him, “The Teacher says: My time has come, and I will eat the Passover meal with My disciples at your house”’” (Matt 26:18 NLT).

John in his gospel also recorded this fact,

“Jesus replied, ‘Now the time has come for the Son of Man to enter into His glory’” (Jn 12:23 NLT).

Jesus was fully aware that His time was now,

“‘Now My soul is deeply troubled. Should I pray, “Father, save Me from this hour”? But this is the very reason I came!’” (Jn 12:27 NLT).

“Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that His hour had come to leave this world and return to His Father. He had loved His disciples during His ministry on earth, and now He loved them to the very end” (Jn 13:1 NLT).

“After saying all these things, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, ‘Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son so He can give glory back to You” (Jn 17:1 NLT).

In fact, Jesus was adamant that no one would take His life, but that He would lay it down at the right time.

“Just as My Father knows Me and I know the Father. So, I sacrifice My life for the sheep” (Jn 10:15 NLT).

“No one can take My life from Me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what My Father has commanded” (Jn 10:18 NLT).

“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (Jn 15:13 NLT).

“We know what real love is because Jesus gave up His life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters” (1 Jn 3:16 NLT).

The reason that Jesus had come to earth was now complete,

“When Jesus had tasted it, He said, ‘It is finished!’ Then He bowed His head and released His spirit” (Jn 19:30 NLT).

So, it was no accident that Jesus died when He did, it was actually in the Father’s timing. Contrary then to what Charles Krauthammer has said Jesus did not die too early. Then again, as Morgan Rempel suggested that it was merely a tragic pre-mature death. Jesus knew that His hour had come to leave this world and return to His Father. It was His set time to die, to pay the full price for the sin of humanity. That is why He was able to cry out “It is finished!” and heaven was silent, because the timing to pay the immense debt was spot on according to divine time.

Some concluding thoughts

So, coming back to the opening question,

Q. Do you know that everything has a set time?

So, by Jesus living under God the Father’s time, determined how much time He had to do the Father’s will. Jesus had the Kingdom of God outlook that, regarded every moment in the light of eternity and not the clock. Above all else, He was concerned with doing the will of God. It is to your benefit that Jesus had this mindset regarding the will of God and its timing.

Do you know that Jesus’ death was timely for you becoming a child of God? You know that Jesus died on the cross and that your sin is forgiven. However, do you know that when you became a Christ-follower it was timely?

“When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners” (Rom 5:6 NLT).

It was when you were at your weakest point in life that, Jesus Christ came and died for you to bring you into the family of His Father. This happened in your life at the set time. Because, remember everything has a set time.

So, this Easter season, stop and remember that it was the right time for Jesus to die. It was His set time to die, to pay the full price for the sin of humanity. For this reason that, He came at just the right time and died, because we were utterly helpless to help ourselves and do anything about our sin. Remember that,

“When Jesus had tasted it, He said, **‘It is finished!’** Then He bowed His head and released His spirit” (Jn 19:30 NLT).

Jesus came and died just in time... He was faithful right to the end and so it is well with our soul. How great is our God!

Do you know Jesus Christ and that He died for you? If so, take comfort in that truth. How can you think of that you could encourage with this amazing liberating truth.

If you do not know Jesus Christ and that He died for you, He did. He did this for you knowing that one day you would need help and would be utterly helpless. Jesus Christ came at just the right time and died for sinners. Are you a sinner today? If so, He died for you. This Easter season could be a brand new start for you to set things right with God and make your peace with Him. If that is you, why don't you join me as I talk with Jesus about making peace with Him?

“Dear Jesus, I have tried to live as a nice person, but it hasn't always come off as it should. At times, I have let You down and hurt You by this. However, I need You to change me to be a better person, because I realise from my track record I'm utterly helpless to change. I need You to change me, because I can't do it. Please Jesus would you make a difference in my life and be the One who saves me from my sin and myself giving me a second chance in my life. You came at the right time to die for my sin. This Easter season, it is You whom I look to for this pure gift of new life. I ask for Your sheer generosity God to put me in right standing with Yourself. Amen.”

Therefore, Jesus Christ died for you, that you might have peace with God. If you talked to God and said the prayer with me, take comfort in that truth. Be encouraged with this amazing liberating truth. How great You are God, and because of that, it is well with my soul and great is Your faithfulness this Easter season!