

TRUSTING GOD'S TIMING IN YOUR LIFE

Ryland Walter | December 23-24, 2023

Week 4: Forget Not (When You Don't Know What To Believe)

When the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. ⁵ God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.
Galatians 4:4-5 (NLT)

The Right Place at the Right Time

At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. ² (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. ⁴ And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. ⁵ He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.

⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. ⁷ She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.
Luke 2:1-7 (NLT)

1. Things work better when they are in the right _____

Shepherds | Magi | Animals
Mary | Joseph | Angels | Star

The founders of every major religion said, "I'll show you how to find God." Jesus said, "I am God who has come to find you."

Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.
Romans 5:7-8 (NLT)

Jesus: "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?'" ³² These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. ³³ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.
Matthew 6:31-33 (NLT)

What _____ does Jesus have in your life?

2. Common places become holy at the right _____

That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. ⁹ Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, ¹⁰ but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. ¹¹ The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! ¹² And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in highest heaven,
and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."
Luke 2:8-14 (NLT)

Emmanuel: God With Us

Have you invited God's _____ into your daily life?

3. The right _____ is _____

The Apostle Paul to believers in Corinth, Greece:

As God's partners, we beg you not to accept this marvelous gift of God's kindness and then ignore it. For God says,

"At just the right time, I heard you.
On the day of salvation, I helped you."

Indeed, the "right time" is now. Today is the day of salvation.
2 Corinthians 6:1-2 (NLT)

TRUSTING GOD'S TIMING IN YOUR LIFE

Ryland Walter | December 23-24, 2023

Week 4: Forget Not (When You Don't Know What To Believe)

When the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. ⁵ God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.
Galatians 4:4-5 (NLT)

The Right Place at the Right Time

At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. ² (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. ⁴ And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. ⁵ He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.

⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. ⁷ She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.
Luke 2:1-7 (NLT)

1. Things work better when they are in the right place

Shepherds | Magi | Animals
Mary | Joseph | Angels | Star

The founders of every major religion said, "I'll show you how to find God." Jesus said, "I am God who has come to find you."

Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.
Romans 5:7-8 (NLT)

Jesus: "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?'" ³² These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. ³³ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.
Matthew 6:31-33 (NLT)

What place does Jesus have in your life?

2. Common places become holy at the right time

That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. ⁹ Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, ¹⁰ but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. ¹¹ The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! ¹² And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in highest heaven,
and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."
Luke 2:8-14 (NLT)

Emmanuel: God With Us

Have you invited God's presence into your daily life?

3. The right time is now

The Apostle Paul to believers in Corinth, Greece:

As God's partners, we beg you not to accept this marvelous gift of God's kindness and then ignore it. For God says,

"At just the right time, I heard you.
On the day of salvation, I helped you."

Indeed, the "right time" is now. Today is the day of salvation.
2 Corinthians 6:1-2 (NLT)



FORGET NOT (WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO BELIEVE)

Talk-it-Over Notes | December 23-24, 2023

REVIEW IT

Sometimes we can consider ourselves so smart and clever, we miss the big point. Don't miss the point of Christmas: If we did not so desperately need a Savior, Jesus would not have come to the world humbly as He did, suffered as He did, dying as He did, and rising from the dead as He did. Christmas is God intersecting with humanity — at just the right time. God's plans reveal a specific place, time, and purpose.

Things work better when they are in the right place. The nativity scene depicts Jesus at the right place... in the center. When we put anything else in the center of our life (work, our own wisdom, distractions, family, and even religion) our life doesn't work right. This does not mean that you are guaranteed a trial free life, but rather a joy in the middle of the trials because of God's presence.

Common places in our life become holy at the right time. While we don't know when the next holy moment will be, we must remain ready. When we draw near to God, He draws near to us — and our everyday places become where invite the presence of God into our lives. **The right time is now.**

*“At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you.”
Indeed, the “right time” is now. Today is the day of salvation. 2 Corinthians 6:1-2 (NLT)*

Spend some time in the Word: Read Jeremiah 29.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. So much of life is being in the right place at the right time. Share with the group a time where this was true for you. What emotions did you experience? How many people did you share this story with right after it happened?
2. The world can influence us to shift what is at the center of our lives. If you are in a season in which Jesus is not at the center, what has taken His place? Even if what is currently in the center can be considered a “good” thing, it does not bring the joy-filled, full life with Jesus in the center. What can you do to return Jesus to His rightful place?
3. Emmanuel means God with us. What common, everyday places in your life need to become a holy place because of God's presence? What can God do to the tension that you are experiencing in those areas?

ACT ON IT

When we draw near to God, He draws near to us. Bring a Bible or devotional book with you to work or your child's practice. Study God's Word; learn His promises. When you invite God into all areas of your life, tension and stress will be reduced.

PRAY ABOUT IT

Thank God for sending His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Ask God to forgive you for putting something other than Jesus in the center of your life. Commit to progress, not perfection, in making the commonplace areas of your life holy.