

Do You Know What Time It Is?

Rich Nathan
February 28-March 1, 2015
Living with Limits Series
Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

For thousands of years human beings have been interested in measuring time. The earliest clocks used the movement of the sun and sundials became more and more sophisticated.

Picture of a Sundial

Because you need regular sunny days, it is doubtful that any ancient tribe living here in Columbus could have ever invented a sundial!

Eventually, as people came to a greater understanding of angles and the effect of geographic latitudes, sundials became more and more accurate and could measure time down to the half hour. Of course, they were useless at night.

Later people began to measure time mechanically by the falling of sand, or the falling of rocks.

Picture of an hourglass

But the birth of modern time keeping really began in the 17th century with Galileo's work on pendulums. He was the first to confirm that a pendulum had a constant period for its swing. The pendulum became used to control clocks.

Picture of a pendulum with a clock

Because the pendulum has a constant motion, clocks were now able to measure time in minutes and not just in half hours, or hours. Eventually, the mechanism for a clock became smaller allowing for the creation of mantle clocks and even pocket watches.

Picture of a pocket watch

Time became a real preoccupation for people in the 19th century with the invention of the train. For the first time in human history, people needed to keep a schedule. When would a train arrive at your local station? When would it depart? If you didn't know the exact time of arrival and departure of a train, you would miss your train. There is something else that happened with the invention of trains. There needed to be a

standard way to set time from one location to another. Otherwise, trains would crash into one another.

Follow me here. Historically, different locations would set their clocks differently. For example, if Columbus, Ohio said that noon was when the sun was directly overhead in Columbus and Dayton, Ohio said that noon was when the sun was directly overhead in Dayton, there would be a five minute difference of when noon was in both cities. And five minutes is a big deal, if you are scheduling trains to pass at a train crossing. So with the invention of trains, we got standardized time zones. Everyone within a time zone set their clocks at exactly the same time regardless of when the time for sunrise and sunset was at that location.

The first super accurate clock was a quartz clock that worked by measuring the frequency of the vibrations of quartz crystals. This was accurate to one second every three years.

Picture of a Quartz Clock

But that is not accurate enough. Caesium clocks were invented to be accurate within one second every 158 million years. In other words, they would be accurate back to the time the dinosaurs roamed the earth.

Picture of a Caesium clock

But who cares? Who needs to measure time so accurately that you'd only lose a second every 158 million years? Now they even have more accurate clocks that you will only lose a second every 4 billion years.

Well, you don't need a caesium clock to time the boiling of an egg, or the baking of a cake. But you do need this super accurate measurement of time for the GPS on your phone to work. GPS satellites carry synchronized caesium clocks to enable them to be able to triangulate your position to exactly work out where your car is on planet Earth. These super accurate clocks are used on Wall Street where there might be millions of transactions happening in a second. Timing is everything. And regulators want to know exactly when every transaction occurs.

Now, most European languages outside of English have two different words to speak about time. The Greeks, for example, used the word

Chronos

...to talk about the sequence of time. Chronos is time on the move. Chronos is about the movement of time.

Chronos = the measurement of time

It is where we get words like chronology which is the studied measurement of time, and the word chronic. When we talk about a disease being chronic, we are talking a disease lasting a long, long time. Chronos had to do with measuring time. It's noon. It's 9:41.

But the Greeks had a very different word for time

Kairos

...and kairos referred to time as an occasion, a significant time, or a significant moment.

Kairos = a significant moment

For example, let's say you are a married man and your wife is 9 months pregnant. She wakes you up in the middle of the night and says, "honey, it's time. You need to take me to the hospital." She is not saying, "Honey, it is 3:00 a.m. Remember, we said that you were going to take me to the hospital at 3:00 a.m." She is saying, "This is the time! This is when the baby is coming." When we talk about the right moment, the appropriate time, the moment of opportunity, we're talking about kairos.

And while Hebrew doesn't distinguish things quite this neatly, nevertheless, the concept of the appropriate time, the right time, time not as measured by a caesium clock or even a sundial, but time as God's moment for something was well understood in the Old Testament. This is the season of Lent in the Christian church calendar. And during this season, I'm teaching through a much-neglected book in the Old Testament, the book of Ecclesiastes. In the chapter that we're going to be looking at today, we're going to see that wisdom can be defined as knowing the right time, the appropriate time for everything. I've called today's message, "Do You Know What Time It Is?" Let's pray.

Ecclesiastes 3:1–14 (NIV)

3 There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
2 a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
3 a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
4 a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
6 a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
7 a time to tear and a time to mend,

a time to be silent and a time to speak,
8 a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

9 What do workers gain from their toil? 10 I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. 12 I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. 13 That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God. 14 I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that people will fear him.

The text that I just read is certainly the most famous passage from the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes. The chapter was put to music in the 1950's by the famous folk song writer, Pete Seeger. It became a #1 hit in the United States in 1965 in a song by the Byrds which made it the oldest words in history to become a #1 hit in America with the only addition being the words, "Turn, turn, turn," and Pete Seeger writing six words, "I swear it's not too late," after the words, "there is a time for peace."

Now, in vv. 2-8, there are 14 pairs of contrasting opposites. The idea in this poem is that all of existence is described as having a proper time. So we read in v. 2, for example,

Ecclesiastes 3:2 (NIV)

2 a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,

We have here the whole human life cycle. There is a time to be born and a time to die. We have a plant's life cycle. There is a time to be planted and a time to be uprooted.

What do we learn from this poem? I think there are three things that this poem is trying to communicate to us. The first is

God is the Lord of times and seasons

The Bible is not a comprehensive history of human activity from thousands of years BC to the 1st century when Jesus and the Apostles lived. Read the books of 1 and 2 Kings, for example. King after king is listed with the briefest of descriptions of their reigns, even if their reigns lasted 50 years. We get the briefest biography of people whose names are mentioned. The Bible is not primarily a book about the political or social or economic forces that drive history, or even the great heroes who share human history. The Bible is primarily about the activity of God. You open the Bible to learn about God's activity in the world, to find out what God is up to, to find out what God is doing.

And from beginning to end, the Bible asserts that God is the Lord of times and seasons. If you read the Bible, you will see that God did govern what happened in the past, God is governing what is happening in the present, and God will govern what will happen in the future. That God is the Lord of time is strongly communicated through the Old Testament prophets. For example, in the book of Daniel, King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that no one could interpret. King Nebuchadnezzar called on all the wise men in the kingdom to help with this troubling dream of a gigantic statue. The only one who could tell Nebuchadnezzar both the dream and its interpretation was the God-inspired prophet named Daniel. And when Daniel receives both the dream and the interpretation, here is what he says:

Daniel 2:19–21 (NIV)

19 During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven 20 and said:

“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever;
wisdom and power are his.

21 He changes times and seasons;
he deposes kings and raises up others.
He gives wisdom to the wise
and knowledge to the discerning.

Well, in Daniel 3 Nebuchadnezzar is not content to live as a limited creature before Creator God. Nebuchadnezzar wants to break through human limits and in an act of great hubris, exaggerated self-importance, he erects a statue of himself and proclaims himself to be a god demanding that everyone bow before him in worship.

So, God judges Nebuchadnezzar. He takes away his sanity for a period of time. Nebuchadnezzar wanders around the earth like an animal, howling at the moon, living outside and being drenched by the rain. This goes on for years until Nebuchadnezzar acknowledges that God is the Lord of time. He is the Sovereign. Here is what we read in Daniel 4:34-35:

Daniel 4:34–35 (NIV)

34 At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever.

His dominion is an eternal dominion;
his kingdom endures from generation to generation.

35 All the peoples of the earth
are regarded as nothing.
He does as he pleases
with the powers of heaven
and the peoples of the earth.

No one can hold back his hand
or say to him: “What have you done?”

God is the Lord of times and seasons. He appointed the exact time for the Messiah to come into the world. He appointed the exact day and hour of Jesus’ death, the very moment when the Passover lambs were being slaughtered in the Temple, God offered up his Son as a sacrificial lamb not to cover the sins of a household like the Passover Lamb, but to cover the sins of the whole world as the Lamb of God. God appointed the exact day for the Messiah to be raised from the dead during the Feast of First Fruits. Christ came back to life; the first of many resurrections to follow. Anyone who attaches themselves to Christ by faith will also be raised from the dead. God is the Lord of times and seasons. He has appointed the exact day and hour for Christ to return. He has appointed the exact day and hour for you and me to be judged and God has appointed the time for salvation.

Here is what we read in 2 Corinthians 6:2

2 Corinthians 6:2 (NIV)

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.

For some of you today, this exact hour, is God’s appointed time. Today, this moment can be the kairos moment for you, the appointed time for you to receive salvation.

So, in light of this truth that God is the Lord of times and seasons, what is our proper response?

The proper response is humility and trust

Humility, that’s what the whole book of Ecclesiastes is urging us towards. Recognize your human limits. Jesus is Lord and you and I are not. We don’t control the times or the seasons because the Lord is the Lord of times and seasons. The Apostle James urges this kind of humility on his readers. Here is what we read in James 4:13-17:

James 4:13–17 (NIV)

13 Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” 14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. 15 Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. 17 If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.

So many folks today believe that the Christian life is all about pursuing our passions, coming up with our goals and then asking God to endorse our dreams, our passions, our vision. The Christian life is not about God endorsing me, or God endorsing you. It is not about God supporting us in our dreams. The Christian life is the continual question, “God, what are you up to? You are the Lord of times and seasons, God what are you up to in this relationship? God, what are you up to in my workplace? God, what are you doing around me that I can partner with you in? God, what have you made me to be and to do? I want to live out the destiny you have for me.” Not, what is my dream for my life, but God, what is your dream for my life? Have you ever asked the Lord that? Have you laid hold of God’s dream?

The proper response to God being the Lord of times and seasons is humility and trust. God has his timing. If your search for a lifelong companion is being delayed, if your search for a job is being delayed, we who know God as Lord of times and seasons respond with these four words: God has his timing. God has his timing. God is the best friend that you and I will ever find. He loves you more intensely than any one else ever could. We can trust him with our lives. We can trust him with timing.

Friends, are you frustrated with delays in your life? Are you frustrated because certain things you hoped would happen have not yet happened – finding a spouse, finding a job, having a child, or an answer to one of your prayers, having a certain door open to you – why not say like the writer of the Psalms,

Psalm 31:14–15 (NIV)
14 But I trust in you, LORD;
I say, “You are my God.”
15 My times are in your hands;

God has his timing.

So the first truth that we read out of Ecclesiastes 3 is that God is the Lord of times and seasons. The second truth is

Human beings go through different times and seasons

There are developmental seasons of life.

There are developmental seasons of life

The great psychiatrist, Erik Erikson, identified 8 stages through which healthy human beings would pass from birth to death. He was one of the first to think deeply about the central task of adolescence which is to answer the question: “Who am I?” It was Erikson who came up with the phrase, “identity crisis” to discuss what most teens go through in

some way or other in that bridge period between childhood and adulthood. Teens are trying to figure out “who am I?” and “who do I want to be?” It’s during the teen years most often that someone determines how much of the Christian faith they’re going to take on for themselves. I know what my parents believe; I know what I’ve been hearing in church or youth group; but how much of this am I going to lay hold of for me? Will I trust in Christ for me? Who am I going to identify with? What group in school? Which adults in my life will I model myself after? What are my interests?

Very often teens go through a process of experimentation of trying on new identities. They try different styles of dress, different haircuts, listen to different styles of music, pursue different interests.

These days, the identity crisis of the teen years is made much more difficult because along with sorting out their religious and political beliefs, along with discovering their talents and interests, along with trying to figure out what group to identify with, the 21st century offers almost no guidance for sexual identity. Teens are given no guidance in trying to sort out their emerging sexual feelings. Who am I? Now the question also involves what’s my orientation? What’s my gender? Is the real me consistent with my anatomy, or inconsistent? For teens today sexual identity is like being sent to a huge grocery store to pick out the best breakfast cereal and being offered no help or guidance about how to define the best, the most nutritious, the healthiest one the advertisers tell me to pick.

Now, recent brain studies of teenagers confirm what every adult knows about the teen years, because we were all teenagers. That is that the way teens go about thinking through issues lacks a certain foresight. Every parent in the world has screamed at their teenager, “What were you thinking when you did this?” When you painted your hair with stripes, when you threw the cherry bomb into the toilet in the girls’ restroom, when you did spins on the ice in my Lexus in the Kroger’s parking lot and smashed into a light pole, what exactly were you thinking?

The answer is they weren’t thinking! According to brain studies the frontal lobes of teen brains, that part of the brain that controls reasoning, planning and problem-solving is that part of the brain that is about looking at and thinking through consequences, not yet fully developed and will not be fully developed until they are well into their 20’s. The capacity to make sound judgments and to see into the future, to realize long-term consequences is not yet developed in the teen brain. It is just biology.

And what is the 21st century message to teens? Here’s a thousand different options; a thousand options regarding what to believe about God. What to believe about truth. What to believe about your identity. What to believe about your sexuality. About love, relationships. Here’s a thousand options and it is up to you, teen, with your immaturely formed brain to sort all of these options out and to make the wisest decisions that will result in long-term blessings for your life and the lives of others.

What an unfair and disastrous burden we place on teenagers today. Is it any wonder that teens are buckling under the pressure that our culture loads on them? So many options and no guidance. Is it any wonder that teens are crashing and burning? Teens need loving direction, not oppression, not a heavy-hand. They need freedom to breathe and to safely experiment and to search things out, to ask questions.

But teens need boundaries. They need road signs and guard rails. They need to experiment and explore, but not by climbing up a high voltage tower. There are some things that will kill you or wreck you for decades.

But more than even safe boundaries, teens need fundamental identities as beloved sons or daughters of God that only Christ can give. No amount of tattoos, body-piercings, haircuts, different clothes, different music, different hobbies, or different sexual interests – none of those things will ever satisfy the crack in the soul of every human being, not only in teens, but in adults and children and the elderly. Every one of us needs to know that we have a Father in heaven and that through faith in Christ, we can be God’s beloved sons and daughters.

We pass through times and seasons. There is a new season of life now in the 21st century that is unique in human history. Sociologists tell us that the late 19th and 20th centuries really fostered the invention of teenager-hood. As adolescents we are not expected to move from childhood into a factory or workplace as it became more and more universal that kids would go to high school there was a delay in full adulthood responsibilities. And the 21st century delays the process even more. There is a new state of life called

Emerging Adulthood

Christian Smith, a sociologist, has written a great deal about emerging adulthood. Everything is getting prolonged these days. It is not enough any more to have a high school diploma, if you want to have a good job. In fact, a college degree, in many instances is insufficient. And so folks feel pressured to go on and get their Masters degree, or some kind of post-graduate degree. And people are delaying getting married these days. There are some who still get married young, but between 1950 and the year 2000, the average date for women’s first marriages rose from age 20 to age 25 and for men from age 22 to age 27. So many people experience at least a decade, or more, of life from high school graduation to marriage.

After schooling, young adults are facing an increasingly uncertain American global economy that undermines stable, lifelong careers. Many young adults are entering jobs with lower job security, lower pay and the ongoing need for more and more training, a culture that pushes young adults to explore more and more and more options, but offers no guidance in how to choose with option is best.

So this period of time from 18-30 is much less well-organized, there is much less of a track for young adults today than there ever was in all of history. What I believe emerging adults need most of all and that we can provide in the church is relationship with older adults, who can offer wisdom and support through this stage of emerging adulthood. 20-somethings need older friends, older mentors, someone to provide wisdom and perspective. It would be amazing if everyone had that in their own fathers and mothers, but most emerging adults don't have that. The opportunity for those kinds of connections at a place like Vineyard Columbus are limitless. This is a great place to make relationship with an older adult, if you are a 20-something.

But there are not just developmental seasons of life, there are spiritual seasons of life. There was an important book written nearly 30 years ago now by a seminary professor named Bobby Clinton. The book was called The Making of a Leader.

Cover photo of The Making of a Leader by Robert Clinton

What Bobby Clinton did was read through the biographies of many Christian leaders from the past and he discovered that Christian leaders almost all went through certain distinct seasons in their lives as their ministries emerged and matured. For the vast majority of Christian leaders, their 20's and early 30's are all about foundation building. The vast majority of Christian leaders were not terribly fruitful in their 20's and 30's. If you are a 20-Something don't fret that you aren't influencing great numbers of people towards Christ, or that you're not making a huge mark on the world. That's not what the 20-something life stage is. It is all about foundation building.

20-something, God is testing you regarding your integrity. Will you tell the truth even when it hurts? He is checking out your obedience. Will you obey him even when it is hard? For most folks in their 20's and early 30's the important thing that's happening is not what God is doing through you, but what God is doing in you. During people's 30's and early 40's people typically launch their ministries, if they're going to be a Christian leader. They might launch a small group, or launch out in missions, or launch a ministry for the poor, or launch a ministry for immigrants, or launch a ministry for single moms facing unplanned pregnancies, or enter into pastoral ministry. During our 40's and early 50's the ministry matures and becomes fruitful. And as people age, Bobby Clinton says some people experience what he calls convergence. A leader more and more moves into an area of ministry that really makes use of all of their gifts, their experiences, their temperaments. Everything lines up. We stop doing what we're not good at and really focus on the thing that God made us for.

The point is that just as there are developmental seasons of life, biologically, psychologically, there are spiritual seasons of life.

There are spiritual seasons of life

Let me show you a few pictures of grape vines.

Picture of Winter Grapevine, Spring Grapevine, Summer Grapevine and Fall Grapevine

Jesus uses the picture of grapevines to describe the spiritual life. Jesus says in John 15 that you are the vine. But vines go through different seasons – sometimes its winter, sometimes its spring, sometimes its summer, and sometimes its fall. And just like grapevines, we go through different seasons. Look at these pictures.

Picture of grapevines

How would you describe the season you are in right now, friend? I don't mean what it is like outside, but what's happening to you spiritually? Are you going through a hard, cold winter? Are you beginning to see new signs of spiritual life springing up? Are you full of fresh hope? Are you in a season right now that is just loaded down with fruit, experiencing God's blessing and seeing fruitfulness in ministry? Do you feel like a dried up, shriveled up autumn raisin?

We don't determine the season we're in, not for ourselves, not for a church. I've been pastoring Vineyard Columbus now for 28 years. And I've discovered that we can do exactly the same things and depending on the season have radically different results. Sometimes with very little effort, the church is loaded down with fruit. Sometimes we put in even more effort and yet the season has changed and we're going through a long, cold, hard winter. Because God is the Lord over times and seasons and we human beings go through different times and seasons – physiologically, psychologically, and spiritually.

The proper response is to wait in faith

God will not be rushed. You and I may not like the season we're in. We want to live in a perpetual summer. We want to always be loaded down with fruit. We want all the flowers to come up, all the doors to open, all the blessings to come. But one thing is certain, God will not be rushed. And without a willingness to wait in faith, we will become frustrated with God and many of us will become disillusioned and say, "This Christian faith doesn't work."

God never promises that the only season we'll find ourselves in is spring or summer. Suring our autumns and winters, we wait. But not like people who are trapped in jail, just counting the days for our release. We wait in faith. We wait in hope for a new day to dawn! We wait with the kind of waiting that Isaiah talked about in Isaiah 40:30-31:

Isaiah 40:30–31 (NIV)

30 Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;
31 but those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

God will not be rushed. And this is especially true regarding things about ourselves that we don't like, that we'd like to change. We are so impatient with our own spiritual growth and our own spiritual maturity. Sometimes we get a glimpse of ourselves and we don't like what we see. We want to change. We pray, "God, change me." I hope you pray that often. "God, change me." We spend years pounding certain habits into our lives, certain ways of relating, certain character qualities, certain ways of thinking, and then we want God to instantly deliver us from those things.

Well, that's not the way spiritual growth and spiritual change mostly happens. Most change happens slowly. That's why I've taught you over and over again, left foot, right foot, left foot. That's the way God mostly works in our lives – step by step, day after day, and year after year. God will not be rushed. Change is a slow process.

Let me give you a personal example. I grew up as a really quick thinking, sharp-tongued New Yorker, in a culture that in order to succeed, you better be able to verbally jab. I grew up in a culture that was really sarcastic, lots of cutting, lots of jabs. One of the wonderful things in my life has been to hear from people who have known me for 20-25 years and what they say to me, "Rich, you've become so much softer. You've become gentler." It's not that I can't swing back to where I was, but as we patiently walk out the Christian life, God does change us and not just during our spring and summers, but through our autumns and winters. We don't change overnight.

Here's the last thing.

Wisdom is discerning the times and seasons

1 Chronicles speaks about the men of Issachar.

1 Chronicles 12:32 (NIV)

32 from Issachar, men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do—200 chiefs, with all their relatives under their command;

Wisdom in the Bible has to do with discerning not only the right thing to do, but the right time to do it. See, wisdom in the Bible goes beyond simple rule-keeping. The rules will tell us to keep our marriage commitment. But rules won't tell us when to date, or when ask someone to marry us, or when to break up with someone. The rules won't tell

us when we should give our hearts to someone. You can be a really moral person and not know when to leave your job or when to move. We need wisdom to discern the proper timing for things.

The proper response is to pray for wisdom

Wisdom discerns the times and seasons. For example, here in Ecclesiastes 3:2 we find that there is a time to be born and a time to die.

Ecclesiastes 3:2 (NIV)

2 a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,

You are praying for an elderly person whose health is declining. Do you pray, “God, lengthen their lives, give this 100 year old another 10 years,” or “You are the Lord of time, I need wisdom regarding how to pray. Is this the time? Do I help this one to die well?” Wisdom is discerning the times and seasons.

Let me give you one example from this list where we really need wisdom. V. 7:

Ecclesiastes 3:7 (NIV)

7 a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,

Here is a common situation that all of us at one time or another find ourselves in. Someone in our social network has lost a loved one and you want to support that person through the grieving process. So you see them at the funeral home. You see them at church. You meet with your friend over coffee. What do you need? You need wisdom. There are so many unhelpful things, extremely hurtful things that well-meaning people say to others who are going through the grieving process. Do not minimize the problem.

Minimize the problem

“It was only a baby; you didn’t really know him.” “You can always have another one.”
“You had many good years together.”

Do not offer religious platitudes

“God must have wanted him.” “She’s an angel now in heaven.”

Do not claim to know how the bereaved feels

"I know how you feel about the death of your husband. My husband and I went through a divorce last year; it's been really hard."

Someone said, "On the same day my wife died, someone came up to me and said, 'I know just how you feel; I lost my dog after a long illness.'"

Do not blame anyone

"Well, you know, they brought this on themselves with their drug addictions."

There is a time to speak and a time to be silent. Mostly, people need our presence. "I'm there for you." People need a hug. People need an expression of grief, "I'm sorry for your loss; I love you; I'm there for you; I'm praying for you." People need practical help – housework, cleaning, cooking, laundry, watching kids, taking care of their pets.

God is the Lord of time. There is a time for everything. And there is a time for each of us to turn our lives over to Christ. Wisdom is all about knowing the time. Let's pray.

Do You Know What Time It Is?

Rich Nathan
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Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

- I. **God is the Lord of times and seasons**
The proper response is humility and trust

- II. **Human beings go through different times and seasons**
 - A. There are developmental seasons of life
 - B. There are spiritual seasons of life
The proper response is waiting in faith

- III. **Wisdom is discerning the times and seasons**
The proper response is to pray for wisdom