



TIME: SEIZING DIVINE MOMENTS PART 2, LOCATING AND REORIENTING

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Pastor Keith Jenkins

BIBLICAL TEXT(S)

Main:

"Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is." (Ephesians 5:15-17)

"Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12)

Supportive:

"Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:4-5)

"The word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,..." (Jeremiah 1:4-5, 29:11-14)

"...I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven." (Acts 26:19)

"I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint. Then the Lord replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false." (Habakkuk 2:1-3)

"Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well,..." (1 Timothy 1:18)

"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water. Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14:28-31)

"Do you want to go through life presuming you've heard from God, or knowing that you've really heard Him?"

—Pastor Keith

MESSAGE SUMMARY

In Ephesians 5, Paul speaks of wisdom that seizes opportunities. In order to know how best to do that—to get to where God wants us to go, to be what he wants us to be—it's important to periodically assess where we are and where we're going, to locate where we are and re-orient. But how do we do the assessment? How do we re-orient our lives, determining if its trajectory is what God wants? Should we rely on presumption? Inertia? It's important that we pay attention to God's revelation in those moments. We can find that generally in the Scriptures, but we also need something specific, don't we? We can always apply teaching and principles that we find in the Bible. That's wise and good, but doesn't God also have something unique for us?

To hear his heart speak to our hearts, we need to create space in our lives. We need quiet, unhurried time to be with God. As pastor Keith said, "Our desire always shows up as a

pursuit.” We don’t casually chase down the things we love. The question isn’t, “Will God speak to me and does he have something specific for me?” The question is this. “Do I really want to hear him?” He will speak. Even better if God gives us a specific vision, then he will sustain it and resource it, despite opposition. Discouragement will come, but God is always faithful, even when our faith wavers.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage and the speaker’s message, helping them understand and apply the teaching.

LEAN IN

These are icebreaker/warm up questions, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. What example or story stood out to you in Sunday’s sermon?
Why was it significant to you?
2. Last time we met, we talked about applying what we learned? Has anyone had a chance to put that lesson into practice? How has it impacted your life?
3. What is one thing that you’re looking forward to this week?
What’s one that you are dreading?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions on the passage and observations about what’s been read.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. What is the reason for “making the most of every opportunity” in Ephesians 5:15-16?
2. What are some examples of “the days are evil” in your life (your neighborhood, place of work, social group, etc.)?
3. What can be some ways you make the most of the time you have in order to make a positive difference in these areas?
4. Look at Psalm 90:10-12. How does this Psalm describe our lives?

LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. What would the average person say is a wise way to live? How might that differ from what you understand from what Paul writes, if at all?
2. Where do you see opportunity in today’s world, if you do at all?
3. How might our understanding of “evil days” that would differ from Paul’s time?
4. Where do you see foolishness embedded in our culture? Where do you see wisdom?

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. Where are you now? How would you describe where you’re “located”?
2. What are you believing God for in the next season of life? Does that need reorienting, and if so, why?
3. How would you rate your desire to hear God’s specific revelation for you? To hear all that He has for you?
4. What habits, time-pressures, or priorities seem to keep you from significant, uninterrupted time with God where you can hear Him?
5. Share a time when you felt like you’d heard from God, but discouragement soon followed. What did you do? What did you learn? What would you have done differently, knowing what you know now?

cont.

**DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS,
CONT.**

LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life.

Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. Time pressure seems to be like a significant drag on quality time with God.
How do you plan to make time to "locate and reorient"?
2. Is there a dream God gave you that needs to be resurrected?
What are you going to do about that, and how can we help?