

Redeeming Time Sept 6,15

(Walk in slow with sack of rocks over shoulder)

Sometimes it feels like I'm carrying a sack of rocks over my shoulder. You ever feel that way? Like you want to help, but you can't help everyone.

You want to forgive them but you keep thinking about it.

Like you feel guilty about something but you don't really want to deal with it?

Like you're carrying other people's expectations...but maybe that's not what God wants?

That you wish you could be more like...so and so?

You know you should do something but you don't know where to start.

I know we can't always have peace because God shapes us through trials but these burdens...I don't think there from God. I think I might have pick them up on my own. Time is becoming even more precious and I don't want these slowing me down.

2000 years ago, God sent His Son among the descendants of Abraham. But they did not have a faith like Abraham. They were trying to live by works, not faith. They had a long list of do's and

don'ts. It wasn't a sack the sack of rocks God had given them to bear...it was imposed by their own leaders determined to meet God's standards their own way. They had gone from trusting God to trusting in their own system. (613 'the mitzvot').

Jesus came and demonstrated He was their promised Savior (Isa 35:5-6; 61:1-2):

The blind receive sight

The lame walk,

The skin diseased cleansed,

The deaf hear,

The dead are raised,

And the Good News is

proclaimed to the poor

But the cities Jesus preached in did not repent (Matt 11:20). So He warned them of judgment and hell. After experiencing their stubbornness, Jesus thanked God that He had hidden His wisdom from the so-called wise and intelligent (Pharisees) and revealed it to infants...meaning His disciples. That when He called out,

"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and

humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” (Matt 11:28-30 NASB)

The Creator of the universe in flesh and blood said there’s a better way to live.

(Let go of sack)

A thousand years earlier, King David puts it another way: *Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him (Psalm 34:8).*

How can we find rest for our souls in this life?

I believe the Gospel...

That I was born to sin and death but that God has a rescue plan...not only to save me but to adopt me. He sent His only begotten Son, Jesus...

- Fully God and Fully Man
- Conceived by the Holy Spirit through virgin Mary,
- Living in perfect obedience to God, the Father
- Completing the mission to prepare the disciples and to send the Holy Spirit for the church, His bride,
- Taking all sin upon Him, dying in my place...
- Rising from the dead on the 3rd day,

- Appearing and commissioning all followers to make disciples who obey Him
- Ascending to heaven where He rules today,

His will return...not as Savior but King to receive His bride and vanquish His enemies. It will be terrible and awesome.

But I’m not in heaven yet. Sure this is a magnificent setting but I still see sin at work. So many...but I’m only one.

How now shall we live?

How can we make the most of the time we have and **rest for our souls**...in a world that is so resistant to Jesus. How can we live abundantly (John 10:10) when it seems we’re losing ground.

It’s not about trying to fit another hour into our 24. And not competing for the longest ‘to do’ list. Not turning a blind eye to the world around us. And not seeking distractions to get us through the week.

If you’re here, it’s because God led you to this point and we’re going to find answers in His living Word. So to open up this **Redeeming Time Series**, I’ve picked one 24hr

period in the life of Jesus. Not to show us up but to give us all hope.

Read Mark 1:21-39

The first four disciples get a chance to see Jesus in action on a Sabbath. His first stop is the synagogue, of course. Ain't it great that we can at least say we got that part right by meeting at the Gospel Chapel this fine Sunday morning. Amen?

Why does His teaching amaze the people? From searching the Gospels we can surmise that

1. He teaches like He knows God personally...not just quoting Rabbi's. His teaching is directly from the Father (John 8:28).
2. Elsewhere we find that people were astonished because spoke with such knowledge without having attended their rabbi schools (John 7:15).
3. He backs up His teaching with power. The Kingdom of God's rule is with Him.

What did you think about this demon in verse 24?

Creepy...but more knowledgeable than the people. To this day, I hope that people will read the Gospel of Mark and know without

a doubt Jesus is the Holy One of God, Savior and Lord.

Obviously, Jesus had discerned that it was not the right time or the right method for the crowds to know His full identity. Jesus simultaneously silences it and casts it out of the man. Can you imagine what this is like for Andrew, Simon, James and John at this point? Sure would be tempting to play that up a bit. "Yah, I'm with Jesus. Actually, He chose us...called us right off our work crew on the Sea of Galilee."

News is spreading like wildfire..as fast as feet and mule can travel throughout Galilee, the northern part of Israel.

"You've got to see this Jesus! And bring anyone who needs healing...he can even cast out demons."

You think after synagogue just maybe one of the town's big wigs wanted to have Jesus over for lunch for brownie points?

Where does he go next?

Directly with James and John to Simon and Andrew's house to hang out with the brand new disciple's family.

How does He know that's the right move?

You could imagine though, that it would have been tricky with the mother-in-law over but sick with fever. Jesus arrives and as soon as they mention the predicament, He goes to her, lifts her by the hand (touching a sick person) to help her up and the fever leaves her. Hosting problem solved.

You ever gone through excruciating pain for a period of time and then get instant relief? I have 3 times. And I wasn't ready to get up and serve...I went into deep sleep. Tough lady.

Guess what question I have now? How does he know healing the mother-in-law is the right move?

Verse 32. By nightfall all those feet and mules have returned with their friends and family...especially the sick and demon-possessed. Some translations say...and the whole town was gathered at the door. Jesus begins healing and casting out demons...again not letting them speak out His true identity. Here's 3 good reasons Jesus hid his full identity from the crowds at this point.

1. Demons are not reputable sources - used against Him
2. Attracting large crowds clamoring for healing

3. The Jewish concept of the Messiah was distorted and He refused to have their will imposed on His mission

At some point He must have completed the healings and people found someplace to sleep. You think Jesus was completely bushed after a day and evening like that? Yet, He gets up before anyone (while its still dark) to find solitude outside.

Jesus genuinely needs Father time.

Jesus makes time to keep an appointment alone with the Father...to set His course. All those questions...why this why that. Same answer...staying tight with the Father.

If we are going to begin discovering how to live well with the time we have left...it begins with a determination to **keep our appointment with the Father.**

What do you do to keep an appointment?

Now how do you show up for an appointment with your Creator and Redeemer?

Verse 37. Jesus' time with the Father is interrupted.

“Everybody is looking for you...the people are ready for more.” Can you identify with Simon? I can. Maybe you had invited an evangelist to town and he was staying at your house. God used him so well, a crowd shows up at your door early in the morning to here more. You go to look for him and he’s nowhere...

“While Simon would never have thought of the Lord as uncaring, the implication is that Simon saw the Lord’s absence or time alone in prayer as unproductive, perhaps even as a sign of wrong priorities when in reality it was just the opposite (Bible.org).”

Simon was responding to the immediate needs in a local context. The Father showed Jesus the bigger picture. He was not ignorant of the needs still there.

Read verse 38

Reason: ‘so that I can preach (not just heal) there also.

Don’t be confused with this new movement that says the time of preaching at gatherings is now being superseded by signs and wonders and feelings. That’s not Jesus’ agenda.

And Jesus makes this earthshaking statement. “That is why I have come.” You feel it?

I wish we could all be that sure of

God’s call in our life. Jesus’ reason
Wouldn’t we all like to know we are following God’s mission?

Well, taste and see that the Lord is good. As we submit our priorities to His examination, He will guide us to what He requires of us...that is what truly really matters for the rest of our life here; know God and share His love...to the extent He asks of you...responding to the opportunities He gives you.

Read Eph 5:15-16

The world was still full of people with needs on the night they took Him away to die...but Jesus could pray “I glorified you on earth by completing the work you gave me to do” (John 17:4). There was no sack of rocks over the shoulder of Jesus.” We can lay ours down too.

Begin with **keeping our appointments with the Father and then obey His calling daily**. Jesus could return at any moment. May He find us faithful...loving God and our neighbors.

Church, we have an appointment to keep with God right now...as we prepare our hearts for sharing communion together.

Remembering Christ’s Death for our sins, **Confessing** our state to make way for His direction and **Anticipating** the Lord’s return.