

Time is very interesting. We are all given the same amount of time every day, 24 hours, 1,440 minutes or 86,400 seconds. But we don't all use our time in the same way. There are many days when we just don't have enough time. Then there are other days when we find ourselves killing time. Have you ever wondered why we can't find a way to use the time we kill to give us more time on those overly busy days? Sometimes we measure time. I know someone out there will time my sermon to see how long it is. But not all times is measured. Time can be viewed as an opportunity or a fulfillment. A married couple might say "It's time to have a baby." But when the baby is do, the pregnant woman might tell her husband, "It's time." Those are two very different ways of looking at time.

Today many people want things to happen in "Real Time." Stock brokers will give you "Real Time" quotes. You can watch "Real Time with Bill Maher on TV. Or you may get a "Real Time" report on an event as it is taking place.

Real Time is God's time. The Christian faith is not a fairytale, a story about something that happened a long time ago or once upon a time. The Bible gives us an account of God acting in History. The Bible is filled with historical detail and references to show us that History is really His Story, the account of God's work to restore us to His family. The prophet Isaiah was called by God "In the year that King Uzziah died." (Isaiah 6:1). The Gospel of Luke tells us that Jesus was born during time of the census order by Caesar Augustus and that Jesus was sentenced to death while Pontius Pilate was the Roman Governor over Judea.

Jesus came at just the right time. The Apostle Paul tells us in Galatians 4:4-5 (NLT), **"But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. 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."** God had a plan to rescue people. He set that plan into the motion the very day that Adam and Eve rebelled against Him in the garden, ate the forbidden fruit and brought sin and death into the world. God's plan called for His Son to enter our world, to take our place under the law, to die for our sins and to defeat death for us by rising from the dead. Jesus did just that at the opportune time, in fulfillment of God's plan. He did it in real time to rescue us in our time.

Real Time is God's time. God is with us right now. Jesus promised that He would always be with His disciples. He promises that the Holy Spirit will be us, live in us and give us a new life. Because God is with us, He changes us, changes our lives. That change is not always apparent on the surface. You don't have to dress a certain way or wear your hair in a certain style to be a Christian, a follower of Jesus. The change is far more significant than that. Because God's Spirit lives in us, He gives us a new attitude, a new way of living. Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT) describes it this way. **"The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience,**

kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” When God’s Spirit produces those changes in our lives, it shows that God is really part of our lives, that He is making a difference. Ephesians 5:15-20 gives us a list of the real changes God makes in our lives. He helps us to make wise decisions, to make the most of our God given opportunities, to understand God’s will and plan for our lives, to praise God and to give thanks to God.

Since Jesus ate with the tax collectors and sinners of His time, since He came to seek and to save those who were lost without Him in their lives, we need to welcome the “tax collectors and sinners” of our day. If you can’t judge a book by its cover, you can’t judge a person by his or her appearance. As the Lord said to the Prophet Samuel, **“The Lord doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”** (1 Samuel 16:7 NLT) Regardless of how someone looks, remember Jesus died on the cross for that person. Now is the time for us to reach out to them with love, God’s love.

The challenge before us today is to make time for God in our lives. If something is important to us, we can make time for it. We make time to watch our favorite TV shows. We make time to text friends or to go on the internet. We make time to go on vacation or to take our kids to their practices. But do we make time for God. I’m glad that you made time for God this morning, that you made time to worship him today. But I have to tell you that far too many church people must think that God takes a long vacation in the summer because they take a vacation from worshipping Him.

Do you make time for God in your life? Do you have time to listen to Him and to talk with Him? Do you have time to obey His command to love one another as He loves us? Love shows itself in action. Jesus said that even the littlest things that we do for others, we do for him. If you helped feed the people at Ronald McDonald house this week, you were making time for God. If you helped provide back to school items for kids, you were doing God’s will. But if you ignored the needs of those around you, if you went all week without making time to connect with God, then God was not very real in your life this week. Make time for God. After all, He made time for you when He sent His Son. Make time for God, after all His Spirit is living inside of you know. Make time for God, because when the time is right Jesus is coming again. He’s got a room with your name on it in heaven. Amen.