

August Laity Minute

Where did the time go? I just received notification that my high school Class of 1991 is having our 30-year reunion. (We could not have one last year due to Covid, so technically it is 31!) It seems like yesterday I was the Drum Major waving around my hands leading the band as we played our West High Fight Song.

Reunions are a funny thing. Every 10 years or so people gather to catch up and reminisce. It can be quite interesting, funny, and at times even awkward. What exactly do you say to someone you haven't talked to in 10 years after you get past learning where they work and how their kids are doing? Some of us have a few more lines on our faces. Others are totally different people than they were back in high school. Some of us haven't changed a bit. It's almost strange to see pictures of my classmate's children because it is like looking at them over 30 years ago.

Regardless, this walk back in time got me thinking about time and just how fleeting it is. How fast it goes, but also how there never seems to be enough of it. We deal with deadlines, appointments, alarms, and all kinds of time related issues. Time can make us hurry or it can be dismissed as we lose track of it reading a great book. Biblically, we can see many references to time. However, there is one reference to time that is worth considering on a deeper level. This is the idea of "Kairos."

Kairos is defined, in Christian theology, as "the appointed time in the purpose of God." It can also mean an opportune or decisive moment. For example, recall the story in Luke when Zechariah didn't believe the news that his wife Elizabeth would give birth to a prophet. The angel said, "And now you will be silent and not be able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time." Luke also says God will reward God's faithful servants at the "proper time." In other words, God's timing is perfect.

As we know, God doesn't tend to work on deadlines or what the calendar says. I'm pretty sure God doesn't have an Apple Watch either. In my line of work, digital marketing, research is conducted and money is spent to tell us the best time to show you an ad on your Facebook page. In fact, millions of dollars are spent on analytics to tell us the exact second when you are most likely to see that ad. Thankfully, God has perfect analytics. No expensive software needed.

We don't always like or agree with the timing of God. But, we are called as Christians and Methodists to have faith in that timing and trust in it. Have you ever felt that little nudge to say something to someone while in line at the store? Well, maybe that was God giving you a Kairos moment. Maybe that was an opportune time for you to make a small but important difference.

We should see time as an opportunity. It is not something lost, nor it is something we should work against. God has given us the gift of time and we should use it to the best of our ability no matter how much of it we possess. We have the chance to use time in a

way which will benefit others. That hour you just spent on social media may have been used differently, right? (And that's coming from a social media professor!)

So, trust in God and God's perfect timing. No batteries, winding, or chargers needed. Kairos is never late.

Peace.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Jung' written in a cursive, flowing style.