



OCTOBER 3

SIGNS

THE TURNING POINT

This weekend we continued our series, *Signs*, and watched Jesus enter Jerusalem to the praise of the Jewish crowd. When “the Greeks” asked to meet with Jesus, He realized that “His hour” had come.

Before you jump into this study, take a moment to prepare your heart. Notice anything that might be a distraction and, to the best of your ability, put it to the side. Take a moment and ask the Lord to meet you during this time.



READ

What does the Word say about God’s timing?

This weekend we learned that *God’s Timing ... Is Important*. Take a look at the following examples of people in the Bible who did or didn’t listen and follow when it came to God’s timing in their life.

- 1 Samuel 13:1-14
- Jonah 1-4 (all four chapters)
- John 2:1-4, 7:28-30, 8:19-20 and 12:20-24
- Luke 22:39-44



REFLECT

What do these passages teach us about God’s timing?

1. In 1 Samuel 13:1-14, we see King Saul’s impatience when it comes to God’s timing in his life.
 - a. How would you describe the demeanor of Saul and his army in 1 Samuel 13:1-7?
 - b. In v. 8 we see that Samuel, the prophet, had told Saul to wait seven days for him to arrive before offering a sacrifice to the LORD. What did Saul see that put pressure on him to offer the sacrifice himself?
 - c. Samuel arrives just after Saul offers the sacrifice on the seventh day. He pulled the trigger too early. What did Saul’s impatience end up costing him?
 - d. Saul had the right vision (to sacrifice before battle) but he became impatient and offered it in his own timing and his own way. How would you describe Saul’s attitude towards God?
2. In Jonah 1, we see the prophet Jonah run from facing God’s plan for his life.
 - a. What was the message God gave Jonah to deliver, and to whom?

- b. The city of Nineveh was the capital city of the Assyrians, the most feared superpower of Jonah's day. They were ruthless and devastated all they conquered. Why do you think Jonah did not want to deliver the message God gave him for Nineveh (Jonah 4:1-3)?
 - c. Jonah was clear on God's vision for his life, and he eventually carried it out. But what was the price he had to pay for his procrastination?
 - d. What do you think was going through Jonah's mind as he was being tossed overboard? What was going through his mind after he was thrown overboard (Jonah 2)?
3. In the gospel of John, "the hour" of Jesus' death is mentioned seven times. Today we read the first four of the seven.
- a. What can we learn from these passages regarding the timing of Jesus' death?
4. Luke 22:39-44 gives us a window into Jesus' heart, as He prays in the Garden of Gethsemane the night He is arrested.
- a. How would you describe Jesus' emotional state while He is praying?
 - b. Even though Jesus asked for this difficult assignment to be taken away from Him, what was His ultimate response to the Father?



RESPOND

In light of God's truth, how should I respond?

1. This weekend we learned that *God's Timing ... Is Perfect*. When God begins to show us His vision for our lives in a particular area, we often make one of two mistakes. The first is to rush ahead and try to make it happen on our own. The second is to drag our heels even when God is making it clear that the time is now. We saw an example of both mistakes in our reading. Saul did not wait on God's timing and offered the sacrifice on his own. Jonah ran from his assignment and delayed obeying God until he was severely disciplined. Both experienced consequences for their disobedience.
- a. Which of these two extremes do you tend to fall into most often? Are you like Saul, wanting to make God's plan happen in your own timing, or like Jonah, dragging your heels when God is calling you to do something difficult?
 - b. Can you think of a time that God began revealing His vision for your life, and you were either too quick to try to make it happen on your own, or too slow in responding? How did it turn out?
 - c. Both Saul and Jonah had trouble trusting God's plan. What are some of the feelings and emotions you experience when God is calling you to *wait* on Him for His timing?
2. This weekend we saw how aware Jesus was of God's timing in His life. He knew what God's vision was, but He waited patiently for *the right hour to come*. Jesus' assignment was a difficult one, yet He carried it out without rushing or procrastinating.
- a. What can we learn from Luke 22:39-44, Jesus' prayer in the Garden?
 - b. Why do you think it's important for us to surrender our will to God?
 - c. Is there an area in your life today that needs to be surrendered to God?

3. Take some time and write out two or three areas of your life where you are seeking God for direction. Are you rushing ahead and trying to make something happen on your own like Saul? Are you procrastinating and running from what you know God is calling you to do like Jonah? Or are you listening, and then following God in these areas?

a. Take a few moments, find a quiet place and listen to the song, *Wait On The Lord*, by Elevation Worship & Maverick City. You can watch it on YouTube at this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3TYG7Q_fj4

OR you listen to it on iTunes, Spotify or Pandora.

b. After listening to the song, spend some time processing with God, do you sense the Holy Spirit giving you any direction about the next steps He is calling you to take in any of these areas?