

**The Times of our Lives**

**Monday, 1/11/10 – Read John 5:2-6**

My Observations \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: We humans live in time. Time is a fact of our lives. How we use time is critical to successful living. The Bible actually says quite a lot about time. ... Each year January reminds us of the passage of time, so this is a good time to think together about time. ... In today’s reading Jesus encounters a man who has been lying by a pool, longing for healing, for 38 years. Jesus comments that he’s been there “a long time.” ... Sometimes it happens like that. The years slip by until one day we notice that we’ve been stuck in the same problem for “a long time.” ... If that’s your experience, bring that into your prayer today. Talk with God about whether **now** is the time to do something differently.

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**Tuesday, 1/12/10 – Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: Everything has it’s time. This famous passage reminds us of one of the Bible’s most important teachings about time: success comes when we rightly perceive the possibilities of a particular moment. What is needed right now? ... Think about your life. Right now what is needed? What is God making possible in this present moment?

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**Wednesday, 1/13/10 – Read Romans 5:6**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: Much has been made of the timing of Jesus’ life. He came at the “right time,” a time which had been prepared for by the history of Israel, a time when the Roman Empire made the spread of the message throughout the world a possibility. What more occurs to you? What was it about that time 2,000 years ago that made it the right time for Christ to come among us? God has an exquisite sense of timing, don’t you think?

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**Thursday, 1/14/10 – Read Luke 12:54-56**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: Ecclesiastes says that everything has its time (see Tuesday’s reading). But it’s not always easy to determine which moment matches up with which activity. Have you ever laughed out loud when the moment called for seriousness? Laughter has its moment, but it can be embarrassing when we laugh at the wrong time. ... Jesus scolded people for not rightly interpreting “the present time.” ... What do you think God is doing now? How would you interpret our “present time”?

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**Friday, 1/15/10 – Read James 5:7-8**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: The Letter of James uses an apt metaphor: farmers know that crops cannot be harvested before their time. The farmer must wait. The farmer must develop the virtue of patience. ... We are not patient people, most of us. We want God to act now! But God’s time is frequently not our time. And often that means waiting for the right moment. That means developing patience. ... In your prayer today talk with God about how difficult it is to be patient.

*My Faith Journal*, January 10, 2010  
***I Don't Like January***

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**Saturday, 1/16/10 – Read Psalm 69:13-14**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: Psalm 69 is the prayer of a spiritually mature and patient person. The prayer is for God to answer -- “at an acceptable time.” ... It’s hard for us sometimes, impatient as we often are, to trust God to answer when the time is right. Yet the Bible is clear that timing is essential -- and that God acts and answers when the time is right. Is there something in your life right now that waits for God’s right time? In your prayer today, try using the words of the Psalm and try to make them your own: “At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me.”

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**Sunday, 1/17/10 – Read Ephesians 5:15-20**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: “Make the most of the time!” (*Ephesians 5:15*) Every moment of our lives has within it some God-given possibility. We live our days faithfully when we are consistently asking God to show us what is needed right now, in this present moment. Sometimes we need to be quiet and let our souls settle. And sometimes the moment requires vigorous activity to meet the need of another or to be productive in our work. We don’t always know for sure, and we don’t always get it right. But the point is to be open to God’s possibilities in each of the moments of our living.

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**What do I hear God saying to me today?**

Kairos (Matthew 13:30) & Chronos (John 5:6)

The needs of NOW (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

Redeeming the Time (Ephesians 5:15-16)

**What action do I intend to take this week?**

*Each day this week, take a few minutes. Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage indicated on the inside of this guide. WRITE down your own thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.*