



What happens when you do the wrong thing at the wrong time?

How are you going to know what time it is for you now?

The simple answer is ask God. Change in life is inevitable.

There are some things in life that it is always time to do, eg. Like worshiping God. But there are also times when these things need to take the primary place in our lives.



Read John 7v6-8

What do you think Jesus meant by this?

Jesus knew he was following God's plan and to do so meant keeping to God's timing. For so many of us every time is right. As a result we act precipitously. The right thing at the wrong time is really the wrong thing.

Why do we often feel pressured to act before the right time?

Does this demonstrate a lack of trust?

It is not good to have zeal without knowledge, nor to be hasty and miss the way. Proverbs 19v2



Humans are always in a hurry.

And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this? Esther 4v14b

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A Time for Everything



Read Ecclesiastes 3v1-8

Solomon tells us that for every event there is an appropriate time. The theme of Ecclesiastes is to find out what is worthwhile to do during our lives. To this end, Solomon gives a list of things that people do to find fulfillment. Work, wealth, pleasure, wisdom, fame etc. He concluded that none of these things in itself brings the fulfillment he desires. His advice in the end is to make the most of what you have, to enjoy what you do and to make relationships your priority. Ecc 2v24-26, 5v18, 8v15, 9v7-10. Unsaved people who live happy lives invariably and unknowingly follow this advice. To these things Solomon adds a spiritual dimension. Happiness comes from pleasing God, remembering your creator and living in awe of God.



The word time, means occasion or season.

There are two basic ways to understand this passage.

That the things listed are, for better or worse, what everyone must face in life. We will all know peace and war, mourning and dancing.



If this is the case, how should we respond to what Solomon is saying?

We should make the most of the good times. And realise that the bad times are inevitable and transient. In the bad, we must trust God and make the most of everything. From this comes happiness.



When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider: God has made the one as well as the other. Ecclesiastes 7v14

The second way to interpret this passage is to say that happiness comes from doing the right thing at the right time. Understanding the different seasons of your life and acting appropriately. Wisdom comes from interpreting the times.



If this is the case, how should we respond to what Solomon is saying?

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:

For each of these items ask, when is the right time and why.

Bear in mind that many of these verses have a physical and a spiritual application.



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1 a time to be born and a time to die,
These mark the boundaries of our lives. Many of the Bible characters understood their birth and death to be destined by God. Their lives were a part of God's plan. This is still true. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. Psalm 139v16

**Is there a time to die?
What implication does this have for us?**

**2 a time to plant and a time to uproot,
Uproot could mean harvest. What happens when you get the time wrong?**

**3 a time to kill and a time to heal,
Does this have to refer exclusively to human life?**

4 a time to tear down and a time to build,
The above three lines all talk about establishing and destroying.
When do things need to be destroyed? 2 Cor 10v4-5 1, Timothy 1v20

For even if I boast somewhat freely about the authority the Lord gave us for building you up rather than pulling you down, I will not be ashamed of it. 2 Corinthians 10v8

For each of these dichotomies, it seems that an individual is drawn to one extreme. Some of us are excellent at pulling down, but poor at building. We tear down what should be torn down and we tear down what should be built up. We can laugh but we can't cry, or we can cry but we can't laugh. Perhaps Solomon is calling on us to balance our extremes.

5 a time to weep and a time to laugh,
Even Jesus wept. John .11v35, Luke 19v41

6 a time to mourn and a time to dance,
One of the symptoms of emotional health is to be able to respond appropriately, to laugh and cry when the time is right. It is healthy to be able to laugh and cry.

When do we weep and laugh?
Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Romans 12v15

**7 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
What do you think this means?**
There are several possibilities; It could refer to building or demolishing a house. Making a field productive unproductive. 2 Kings 3v19. It could refer to the Jewish burial custom of placing stones on a grave or as the Good News Bible has it, it could be a euphemism for sex.

**8 a time to embrace and a time to refrain,
What do you think this means?**

**9 a time to search and a time to give up,
How are you going to know when it is time to give up?**

**10 a time to keep and a time to throw away,
What application might this have?
What are keeping and throwing away associated with?**

11 a time to tear and a time to mend,
This could be associated with mourning.
What can happen if you fix someones problem to quickly?

Never give the prodigal son Mc. Donald's in the pig sty.
He told them this parable: "No-one tears a patch from a new garment and sews it on an old one. If he does, he will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old. Luke 5v36

12 a time to be silent and a time to speak,
My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, James 1v19

**13 a time to love and a time to hate,
When is the time to hate? Exo 18v21, Lev 19v17, Psm 45v7,139v21, Jude v23
Isn't it always a time to love?**
Perhaps it also means a time to show love.

**14 a time for war and a time for peace.
Is there really a time for war?**
He has made everything beautiful in its time. Ecclesiastes 3v11

✓ Read 1 Chronicles 12v32
Ecclesiastes 8v5
Esther 1v13
Psalm 31v15

What do these verses tell us?

? What times or seasons, were there in Moses life?
Moses life falls into three periods of 40 years, education in Egypt, shepherding in the desert, leading the children of Israel. The junctures between these held dramatic events.

? What times or seasons, were there in Jesus life?
Thirty years of anonymity, forty days in the wilderness, three years of ministry and three days in the grave.

? What times or seasons are there going to be in our lives?
In our lives there will be mountains and valleys, triumphs and defeats. There will be times to concentrate on different things, time to make family a priority, time to make money, time to train and time to serve God, time to wait and time to rest.