

Right Place, Right Time (Part 2)

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Scripture References

Luke 10:38-42, MSG

Ecclesiastes 3:1

John 11:20-32

Proverbs 3:6

1 Thessalonians 4:11

Mark 4:19

Luke 5:17-26, MSG

Mark 5:25-34, MSG

John 5:1-13, MSG

Summary

We are living in unsettled times. Despite the turbulence around us, however, believers receive everything we need when we trust in God. During Jesus' ministry, Mary received what she needed—the life-sustaining Word of God—because she was in the right place at the right time. It is the same with us today. How a situation turns out often depends on being in the right place at the right time; this is only possible when we spend enough time with God to be able to hear and receive directions from Him on where to be and how to respond. Allowing Him to deposit His Word in us gives us hope, and equips us with the ability to rise above our circumstances. When we are so desperate for Jesus that we're willing to put everything on the line and take the risk of having faith in Him, His grace will manifest itself in our lives.

A. Mary was at the right place at the right time; her sister, Martha, was the exact opposite.

1. As they continued their travel, Jesus entered a village. A woman by the name of Martha welcomed him and made him feel quite at home. She had a sister, Mary, who sat before the Master, hanging on every word he said. But Martha was pulled away by all she had to do in the kitchen. Later, she stepped in, interrupting them. "Master, don't you care that my sister has abandoned the kitchen to me? Tell her to lend me a hand." The Master said, "Martha, dear Martha, you're fussing far too much and getting yourself worked up over nothing. One thing only is essential, and Mary has chosen it—it's the main course, and won't be taken from her" (Luke 10:38-42, MSG).
 - a. We need to be more like Mary, and hang on every Word from God. We must be careful not to become like Martha, who was spiritually in the wrong place at the wrong time.
 - b. Even if the Word is at work all around us, we can become completely distracted if we allow ourselves to be pulled away by the cares of the world.
 - c. Martha complained because she was upset with what was going on and she had no help in the kitchen. We must guard against the spirit of complaining; it limits God's ability to move in our lives.
 - d. When we are not spending enough time with God, it is easy to fuss and get worked up over nothing. We need to tune in to *Him*, not to our negative emotions.
 - e. It is okay to take care of our daily tasks, but there is a time and a place for everything. We need to be on *God's* time, not on ours.

- f. To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven (Ecclesiastes 3:1).
- g. We see the same difference in thinking between Mary and Martha later, when Jesus raised their brother, Lazarus, from the dead (John 11:20-32). Their reactions were totally different; Martha was still in a place of anxiety and panic, but Mary reacted according to how Jesus had ministered to her earlier.
- 2. We need to make sure we are exactly where God wants us to be. We do that by allowing Him to order our days, so that He can direct and guide us.
 - a. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths (Proverbs 3:6).
 - b. This involves honoring God by giving Him the authority to speak into our lives, and not getting too busy to sit at His feet to listen and learn from Him.
 - c. In addition to not complaining, we must also mind our own affairs and avoid being a busybody.
 - d. And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business... (1 Thessalonians 4:11).
 - e. This is not to say that we should not tend to our daily affairs, but just that there is a proper time to do everything. We must not get too caught up in busy work to let God lead us.
 - f. And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful (Mark 4:19).

B. We need to be so desperate for God that we are willing to risk everything to be with Him.

- 1. One day as he was teaching, Pharisees and religion teachers were sitting around. They had come from nearly every village in Galilee and Judea, even as far away as Jerusalem, to be there. The healing power of God was on him. Some men arrived carrying a paraplegic on a stretcher. They were looking for a way to get into the house and set him before Jesus. When they couldn't find a way in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof, removed some tiles, and let him down in the middle of everyone, right in front of Jesus. Impressed by their bold belief, he said, "Friend, I forgive your sins." That set the religion scholars and Pharisees buzzing. "Who does he think he is? That's blasphemous talk! God and only God can forgive sins." Jesus knew exactly what they were thinking and said, "Why all this gossipy whispering? Which is simpler: to say 'I forgive your sins,' or to say 'Get up and start walking'? Well, just so it's clear that I'm the Son of Man and authorized to do either, or both...." He now spoke directly to the paraplegic: "Get up. Take your bedroll and go home." Without a moment's hesitation, he did it—got up, took his blanket, and left for home, giving glory to God all the way. The people rubbed their eyes, incredulous—and then also gave glory to God. Awestruck, they said, "We've never seen anything like that!" (Luke 5:17-26, MSG).
 - a. The people who came to hear Jesus knew the importance of being in the right place at the right time. Focusing in on God's Word centers us where we need to be.
 - b. Letting God deposit the Word in us equips us for our assignment and gets us ready for our future.
 - c. The men carrying the paraplegic on a stretcher did not let the crowds stop them; they got creative and climbed up on the roof to get to Jesus. *We* must ask ourselves how desperate we are to be in His presence.
 - d. When we are in the right place at the right time, God's favor will show up.
 - e. When the paralyzed man was dropped down through the ceiling in front of Jesus, there were most likely people waiting in the crowd who were indignant at what was

happening. We must not let others' irritation or contention contain us or keep us from believing God for the impossible.

- f. We should not expect others to understand the importance of obeying God and trusting Him with our lives.
2. A woman who had suffered a condition of hemorrhaging for twelve years—a long succession of physicians had treated her, and treated her badly, taking all her money and leaving her worse off than before—had heard about Jesus. She slipped in from behind and touched his robe. She was thinking to herself, "If I can put a finger on his robe, I can get well." The moment she did it, the flow of blood dried up. She could feel the change and knew her plague was over and done with. At the same moment, Jesus felt energy discharging from him. He turned around to the crowd and asked, "Who touched my robe?" His disciples said, "What are you talking about? With this crowd pushing and jostling you, you're asking, 'Who touched me?' Dozens have touched you!" But he went on asking, looking around to see who had done it. The woman, knowing what had happened, knowing she was the one, stepped up in fear and trembling, knelt before him, and gave him the whole story. Jesus said to her, "Daughter, you took a risk of faith, and now you're healed and whole. Live well, live blessed! Be healed of your plague" (Mark 5:25-34, MSG).
 - a. The woman could have lost all hope and given up, thinking that it was God's will for her to remain sick. However, she chose to pursue God's best for her life.
 - b. We should not allow the bad things to stop us; we can make them part of our testimony. We must continue to move forward and trust God.
 - c. The woman took a chance touching Jesus' robe; she had no guarantees or promises, only faith in Him. As a result, God's goodness physically manifested in her life.
 - d. Like the woman who was healed after taking a risk of faith, we must not let others' negativity or judgment limit us.

C. Readily obeying God without making excuses puts us right where He wants us to be.

1. Soon another Feast came around and Jesus was back in Jerusalem. Near the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem there was a pool, in Hebrew called *Bethesda*, with five alcoves. Hundreds of sick people—blind, crippled, paralyzed—were in these alcoves. One man had been an invalid there for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him stretched out by the pool and knew how long he had been there, he said, "Do you want to get well?" The sick man said, "Sir, when the water is stirred, I don't have anybody to put me in the pool. By the time I get there, somebody else is already in." Jesus said, "Get up, take your bedroll, start walking." The man was healed on the spot. He picked up his bedroll and walked off. That day happened to be the Sabbath. The Jews stopped the healed man and said, "It's the Sabbath. You can't carry your bedroll around. It's against the rules." But he told them, "The man who made me well told me to. He said, 'Take your bedroll and start walking.'" They asked, "Who gave you the order to take it up and start walking?" But the healed man didn't know, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd (John 5:1-13, MSG).
 - a. Our belief is crucial. We must ask ourselves if we want healing; it is up to us to decide if today is our receiving day. It is our choice whether or not to believe God can deliver us and give us peace and joy.
 - b. When Jesus asked the man a straightforward question, the man initially began making excuses. God cannot do anything for us unless we make up our minds, first, to cooperate with Him.

- c. Healing takes place when we are at the right place at the right time; deliverance takes place when we are where God wants us to be.

For more on lining up our thinking to agree with God's Word so we can receive His direction, click on the link below for the CD, *Right Place, Right Time (Part 2)*.

<http://bit.ly/RightPlaceRightTimePart2CD>

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