

Timing Is Everything

Timing is everything. The lesson for today is simple: God knows us, God equips us, and God Sends us – and when we follow God’s inspiration and act boldly, we find that God’s timing is just perfect. Loretta sent me this prayer that works perfectly with today’s message – let us pray: Dear God: Please untie the knots that are in my mind, my heart and my life. Remove the have nots, the can nots and the do nots that I have in my mind. Erase the will nots, may nots, might nots that may find a home in my heart. Release me from the could nots, would nots and should nots that obstruct my life. And most of all, Dear God, I ask you remove from my mind, my heart and my life all of the 'am nots' that I have allowed to hold me back, especially the thought that I am not good enough. Amen.

God knows us: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

God equips us: Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a child." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you.

God sends us: you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you, Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says our God. Then God reached out and touched me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant." A friend sent me this quote from Corita Kent: Love the moment, and the energy of that moment will spread beyond all boundaries." Too often we are eagerly looking for ways to make timing work for us rather than seeking God’s timing. It’s like the story of the two lawyers present at a bank during a robbery. Puts \$100 in pocket; owed.

“And in the end, it’s not the years in the life that count. It’s the life in your years.” – Abraham Lincoln

Please rise as you are able. Hear this reading of the Good News from Luke 13:10-17:

Now Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath.

And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight.

Jesus saw her, and called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment."

When Jesus laid hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God.

But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the Sabbath day."

But the Jesus answered him saying, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water?"

And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham and Sarah whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?"

When Jesus said this, all of the opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that Jesus was doing.

Here ends the first reading.

Hear this reading from **Jeremiah 1:4-10**

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a child."

But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you,

Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD."

Then the LORD put out a hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth.

See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."