

# DAY 14

# TIME



## **Mark 1:15**

*"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near." Mark 1:15*

In the New Testament, there are two different words for our English word, "time."

Chronos - This refers predominately to what we think of when we think of time; it is "clock-time." It is Chronos where we derive our word Chronological. Or maybe put bluntly, "one dang thing after another." It is what we measure in minutes, seconds, hours, days, etc. This is what we

refer to when someone asks, "what time is it?"

Kairos - On the other hand, kairos is what refers to "God's time." It is time in the sense of divine destiny. Time is set aside and designated for the divine, something different and distinct. Jesus would often speak of time in this way, "The time is fulfilled." or "My hour has not yet come," or "The time is coming when..."

It is this sort of kairos time that Jesus operated out of. I think this is why we have such a difficult time even imagining Jesus as ever in a hurry. Because Jesus operated out of kairos, not Chronos. Time was sacred, encounters with people were sacred, the mundane everyday tasks were, in fact, sacred.

There is a principle of biblical hermeneutics (this is a \$10 way to say interpretation) that is called "The Hermeneutic of First Mention." And all that means is that the first time a concept is mentioned, it carries specific weight and emphasis.

With that in mind, did you know what the first thing in the scriptures to be called "holy" is? Not a place, not a person, not a thing, but it was the Sabbath. Think about that for a second.

Rather than naming a holy place that many religions of the world do, God chooses a day; he chooses time. It is because all of creation is God's, and God's omnipresence means that his presence is available in all of creation. So we don't go to meet God in space, but rather, we can meet God in time. When we slow down, when we live according to kairos - as Jesus so often did - we then encounter the living God.

So the question for us today is, what would it mean for us to give attention to both kinds of time? To not simply live enslaved to Chronos, but to find ourselves paying attention to kairos as well. Perhaps we would have this space charged with significance as we attend to the presence of God in time.

## **Daily Practice**

Finish this sentence each time you check the time today: "In my life right now, it is God's time for..."

The below reflections are written by congregants & staff of CPC. All reflections are following Trevor Hudson's book Pauses for Lent and are both heavily influenced and borrowed from his work. Any quotes without attribution should be credited to him.