

Out Of Season

Ecclesiastes 11:4

We're continuing this week on a message begun last week; That we understand what God is doing in this time, this season.

- We find ourselves waiting on God when in fact He is waiting on us
- We await "ideal" conditions before we move, but that doesn't work
- Ecclesiastes 11:4 – "Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will never reap."
- A few weeks back, Ps Jim gave a prophetic word about bearing fruit "out of season" – while nothing seems "just right", if we believe God, we can see fruit.
- A good gardener can grow & bear fruit in all manner of earth.

2 Timothy 4:1-5 -- "be prepared in season and out of season..."

- Out of season is described by the vv 2-5 -- "people will not put up with sound doctrine...they will be resistant to the truth...to suit their own desires..."
- We live in a culture that caters to the thinking the views of everyone. "They will turn their ears away from the truth and listen to myths..."
- The season we're in requires that we "keep your head...discharge all the duties of your ministry"
- We are in a time that is "out of season" –
 - First time in history Protestants are no longer the majority religion in the USA;
 - We continue to be shocked by things people engage in when they are no longer tethered to the truth in the Scripture.
 - Things become questions, issues when culture/society is no longer in sync with the truth.
- Don't let the thinking in society stop you or silence you.
- We are in an "out of season" time when God isn't moving as we've seen him move in the past. Seasons of power & anointing come and go, but we can't wait until another outpouring, what do we do "between the moments when God moves." We are not to be defined by the fruitfulness of a particular season.
 - What do we do in between the moments of God's outpouring, when the culture is "out of season"?
 - Our fruitfulness is not to be dependent upon the season we find ourselves in...

Mark 11:12-14 -- Jesus approaches the fig tree expecting fruit;

- Though He made the seasons, He still required fruitfulness.
- Because God is present, everything else is superseded. The fig tree could & was expected to bear fruit -- regardless of the season -- because God was present.
- When God steps up to the situation, He supersedes every other principle, every other design requirement.
- When God is present, excuses ("a reason with no faith") are removed.

Ezekiel 47: -- "...they will bear fresh fruit every month..."

- Located along the river flowing from the Temple, supernaturally quickened fruit monthly.
- The water in this river supernaturally able to bring forth fruit consistently and on a regular basis.
- "Out of our bellies shall flow rivers of living water..." We are those from whom supernatural waters are to flow that we can be fruitful regularly.

Jeremiah 29:4ff -- "To the exiles whom I have sent into exile..."

- God had driven these people into exile and left them there for 70 years. Yet in this place, God directed them to "plant gardens...multiply there and do not decrease...pray for the welfare of the city for in its welfare you will find welfare..." They were going to be there for a while, long enough for their children's children to know their people in that alien society.
- God intends for us to prosper in the midst of an environment that would not normally be associated with productivity, fruitfulness.

How do we live?

1) We must recognize "right prophets" -- will we be Hananiah or Jeremiah -- Jeremiah 28-29

- We need to hear the voices, not of those who will tell us what we want to hear, but speak what God is saying. Hananiah prophesied that the dispersion would be for 2 years only and then be done.
- Jeremiah rebuked Hananiah because he led the people to trust, not in God, but in a report that was false.
- The greatest season for the church, the greatest moment for an "out of season anointing" is upon us; but if we trust in anything else but God's word, we will be placed "under a yoke of iron"
- In adversity, we want to hear that which is easy, that things will work out just fine.
- There is a time coming when those who want to hear falsehoods, their yoke of wood will be replaced with a yoke of iron.

- Faith is difficult because it is imposing the word of God on an established situation and looking for God to bring a transcendent outworking
 - It is hard for us to have faith; it is a work: "The work of God is this, to believe in the One He has sent."
2. Stop waiting for the ideal and learn to operate in the real -- GEN 26:12-14 -- Isaac sowed in a time of famine and reaped "a hundredfold";
- Surrounding his becoming "very prosperous" was his sowing in a time when it's not natural or reasonable to sow -- a famine
 - Sowing in this way means planting with seed one could regard as needing to eat in a time of famine
 - Isaac didn't wait for the ideal; he sowed in obedience
 - We need to learn to sow, even in a time of famine
3. We have a mandate to Reproduce – "take wives, have sons & daughters"
- Stress stops reproduction -- yet the dominion mandate in GEN has not ended;
 - This is not a moment to go into "survival mode" that stops fruitfulness
 - When we get harassed, we quit reproducing; yet that's what we're to do
4. Find the light - John 12:35
- Easy to curse the darkness; in the darkness we must find the light
 - It doesn't take a lot of light in the midst of darkness to appear to be a bright light.
 - It's been easy to find God; but God will hide himself in darkness and we still need to seek & find Him.
 - When God moves, when He seems to have disappeared, we are to move with Him; we are to find Him
 - We must not wait for God to show up; we must go out and find him.
5. Be the light – Matthew 5:14-16 -- "a city set on a hill cannot be hidden"
6. Change the environment -- because Joseph was there, Potiphar was blessed
- No matter where Joseph found himself, he changed the environment
 - God is looking for this representation of Himself on the earth (the church, us) to work change in the atmosphere, in the circumstance.
7. His source, His glory -- John 15:8; Revelation 22:15
- Bear much fruit and demonstrate the glory of God – "and so prove to be my disciples"

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- When such fruit is born in a wrong context, it will be the product of having sown in a time of famine.
- Revelation 22:15 -- the tree of life is described..."and the leaves of the trees are for the healing of the nations...and the night will be no more..."

Will we receive an out of season anointing & bear fruit out of season; we may find ourselves out of sorts, out of sinc, out of season, but the question is will we be fruitful?

- The church has worked hard at being attractional – we've tried to connect with our society
- Yet in truth we are "strangers & aliens" who are "out of sinc" – we are to be "in" the world, but it will mark us as distinctive in this world – a contrast that testifies of what only God can do.