

Using Every Opportunity to Serve People in the Name of Jesus

Message 2 of 6 in the series: "Kairos"

kairos = a God-given moment, season, or window of opportunity; the right time to do something

"So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. **Make the most of every opportunity** (kairos) in these evil days." Ephesians 5:15-16 (NLT)

A. We need to make the most of every opportunity we have to show others God's love by serving them.

1. Jesus showed us what God's love looks like by servicing us and meeting our greatest need.

"When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the **right time** and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. **But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us** while we were still sinners." Romans 5:6-8 (NLT)

"...the Son of Man did not come to be served, **but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.**" Matthew 20:28 (NIV)

2. God has planned many opportunities for each of us to show our selfish culture what His love looks like by servicing others and meeting their needs.

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, **so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.**" Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

"But you are a chosen people, **a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light... Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, **they may see your good deeds and glorify God** on the day he visits us." 1 Peter 2:9 & 12 (NIV)

"For though I am free from all, **I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them.**"
1 Corinthians 9:19 (ESV)

3. God has planned amazing opportunities for us to serve people everywhere by bringing us together as a church.

"I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and **even greater works**, because I am going to be with the Father." John 14:12 (NLT)

"But I tell you the truth: **it is to your advantage that I am leaving**; for if I do not leave, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you." John 16:7 (NASB)

"But **you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you**. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 (NLT)

"**All of you together are Christ's body**, and each of you is a part of it." 1 Corinthians 12:27 (NLT)

B. God wants us to thoughtfully make the most of the opportunities we have to serve others in the name of Jesus.

"Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do." Ephesians 5:17 (NLT)

1. We should think carefully about opportunities to serve people living in the neighborhoods/schools/families/workplaces where God has placed us.

"This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says to all the captives he has exiled to Babylon from Jerusalem: 'Build homes, and plan to stay. Plant gardens, and eat the food they produce. Marry and have children. Then find spouses for them so that you may have many grandchildren. Multiply! Do not dwindle away! And **work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile**. Pray to the Lord for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare.'" Jeremiah 29:4-7 (NLT)

"Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for **just such a time** as this?" Esther 4:14b (NLT)

"Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. **I was a stranger,**

and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me... when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!" Matthew 25:34b-36 & 40b (NLT)

2. We should think carefully about how we can use our God-given personality/skills/passions/experiences to serve others.

"You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! **Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it...** You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered!" Psalm 139:13-17 (NLT)

"You have a large number of **skilled** stonemasons and carpenters and craftsmen of every kind. You have expert goldsmiths and silversmiths and workers of bronze and iron. Now **begin the work**, and may the Lord be with you!" 1 Chronicles 22:15-16 (NLT)

3. We should think carefully about how we can use the spiritual gifts God has given each of us to serve together as a church.

"In his grace, **God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well.** So, if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly."

Romans 12:6-8 (NLT)

4. We should think carefully about how we can serve others in the name of Jesus long-term.

"And **let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds**, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

"So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the **right time** (kairos) **we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.** Therefore, whenever we have the **opportunity** (kairos), we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith." Galatians 6:9-10 (NLT)

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Connect Group Questions:

Read Matthew 20:28 and Ephesians 5:16-17, and then discuss the following questions:

1. Describe the best softball team/sales team/volunteer team you have ever been a part of. What made it so special? What role did you play?
2. Read 1 Peter 2:9-12. Peter said we should see ourselves as a holy nation of priests. Why do we tend to think only some Christians are qualified to serve in ministry?
3. Where have you volunteered to serve in a church or ministry in the past? How did serving impact your life?
4. How do you feel about serving others in the family/neighborhood/school/office where God has placed you right now? (Jeremiah 29:4-7 & Esther 4:14)
5. Spend some time as a group praying for Centerpoint Fellowship Church.
 - Ask God to empower us to do the good things He has planned for us to do. (Acts 1:8, Ephesians 2:10)
 - Ask God to show us what gifts He has given us and how to use them together. (Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:7-12)
 - Ask God to bless us with unity, teamwork, and great communication. (Acts 2:42-47)
 - Ask God to show us how to get everyone involved in serving others. (Hebrews 10:24-25)
 - Ask God to help us keep going. (Galatians 6:9-10)

6. Discuss Centerpoint's Mission, Vision, and Values. Where do you fit in?

- Our **Mission** is to help people live Christ-centered lives by loving God, loving others, and making disciples.
- Our **Vision** is to be a multiplying church of small groups that equips ordinary people to serve their communities, to share the Good News of Christ, and to gather for worship wherever God leads.
- Our **Values** are: Biblical Authority, Authentic Relationships, Outward-Focus, Selfless Service, Spirit-Empowered Living, Transformational Prayer, and Growing Generosity.