

A Time to Speak: It's Time... Kin-dom Time, that is!

May God's Grace and peace be with you this day! Do you remember the skit 'Is It Time Yet?'

There would be about 5 on a bench, sitting just like this (legs crossed), and the first would ask Is it time yet? And that one would ask the next one, the question ... until it the question was asked of the last one who said, 'Nope, not yet.' This would get played out three or four times until the one on the end replied 'yep, it's time!' and each un-crossed and re-crossed the legs, until all had reset their legs and start over.

Our scripture lesson (Luke 12:32-40) is in the midst of Jesus' teachings while on the journey from Galilee to Jerusalem. The writer is giving an orderly accounting of Jesus ministry & teachings so that the reader/hearer (and us) 'would know the truth' of what we've been taught (1:4).

Well, friends, it's time... God's *kin-dom* time, that is... time for fruitful living as God's kin-dom is realized on earth as it is in heaven. It's time to participate as God's people, as partners, in transforming the world around us. We don't have to wait, because Jesus tells us, it's time... be ready.

We also hear from Jesus today, 'do not fear, little flock' .. because it's time. Do not worry, its time. Why? Because God's got our backs...Jesus says... 'your Father delights in giving you the kingdom' (v32). But the caution is... the kin-dom isn't based in earthly stuff...possessions & money... the kin-dom is rooted in love and justice. The kin-dom is rooted in serving others, particularly the poor, the outcast, the marginalized, those left, lost, and broken (Isaiah 1:17).

Friends, it's time... to be awake, alive, alert, and enthusiastic! It's time... to be ready to lend a hand, to equip others, to encourage, and to promote the promises we know... that God loves us... that God never fails... that God is with us... and God desires to receive us with open arms if we would just open the door to our hearts... The time is now... here, this day... this moment ...Now. Here. This.

You may have noticed that I pray a prayer to the Holy Spirit before I speak... because I firmly believe that God is with us... within us...ready to empower us.

You see, about ten years ago, Even though I knew of God, Jesus, & the Holy Spirit, My life was changed in an instant. It was a starry night; it was a moment of surrender... a moment of trust-i-fication (in which I said 'only you God can fix this')...my heart was 'strangely warmed' and I never been the same. That night of brokenness became a sacred moment in which all I wanted was what God wanted for me... I didn't know how, I didn't know when, I just knew one thing...that all would be well, I just had to follow the leading of Spirit within me. I had to lean on my Christian friends/family, and listen & learn all I could so I could follow.

I was prompted to serve others, through leading music, through preaching, and through responding to a call to shepherd others. I learned to be ready for whatever life brought to me, and I learned to remember that I was not alone.

We have needs in our community of Faith... for an editor, for musicians & singers, for liturgists, for students to fill classes. Our community has needs... in Ellicott City (Monday 1 pm @ Emory Church), the food bank, etc.

As we walk together in this journey, let us take time to connect with our sisters and brothers in faith, share our prayers, our hopes & our dreams, and live out loud, by word and by action, *'I love you, but God loves you more!'*

It's time... to pause, to listen, and to participate in ushering in God's kin-dom. Now. Here. This. Amen! Amen!