

“MOMENTS IN TIME”
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We’ve all heard it said that “Time is Fleeting.”

- ... Meaning that, at one point or another, each of us will ask ourselves, “Where did all the time go?”

**Every Holiday season, someone eventually reminds me to slow down and...
 “Capture every moment.”**

Question: Why do moments have to be captured in the first place?

- I wonder if it’s because of how easily a moment can “Escape” our notice...

This is a significant reason why I believe the Holidays are such a special time of the year...

- Because so many people are setting aside time to be fully present, capturing precious moments.
- This may also be why watching someone dedicate their child to God feels so special.
- We are aware that we are witnessing something significant.
- A precious moment in time.

I’ve come to believe that we each experience this desire to “Capture” the special moments in our lives far more often than we even realize...

- ... It’s like each experience is washing over and around us, as we try to subconsciously grab them as they float by.
- **Question:** What am I going to do with these pictures? Lol!
- And yet I don’t erase them... I have 10,597 Pictures on my phone. - Why?

The Bible itself speaks to the importance of being aware of the precious moments in time you have been given...

- Moses prays... (Vs) Psalm 90:12 – “So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.”
- King David aptly points out... (Vs) Psalm 39:4-5 – “O Lord, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am! Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you. Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath!”

- The apostle James echoes... (Vs) James 4:14b – *“What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.”*

The Bible also goes on to teach us that even when we are fully present and thoughtful about how are spending our time...

“The awareness that we are here for a purpose should be the ultimate determiner through which we mark moments as precious.”

Allow me to expound...

(Vs) Ephesians 5:15,16 – *“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.”*

- There’s a sense that within this world that’s decaying, the way you spend your time makes a difference.

C. S. Lewis understood this... “If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next.”

Jesus gives us a real time example of this principle in action...

(Vs) Mark 5:21-24a – *“When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea. Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet and implored him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live.” And he went with him...”*

- This is obviously an important matter both for this man, his daughter, and so Jesus... This is literally a Life and Death level “Moment.”

We all have had moments in our stories that feel like this...

- ... Moments that we want Jesus to feel what we feel and be where we want Him.
- Jesus knows this, and He’s willing. It says... *“And He went with Him...”*
- How cool is that? Jesus goes with us when we ask.
- But as I said, “The awareness that we are here for a purpose should be the ultimate determiner through which we mark moments as precious.”

Jesus isn’t confused that He’s here for a purpose...

- So, with great humility I must remind you that... “Your current ‘Precious Moment’ and Jesus’ Precious Moment, may not always be in perfect sync.”

(Vs) Mark 5:24b-29 – “And a great crowd followed Him and thronged about Him. And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind Him in the crowd and touched his garment. For she said, “If I touch even His garments, I will be made well.” And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease.

There’s a lot happening here... more than I want to unpack today.

- That said, this woman wasn’t just after physical healing. She was after inclusion back to the family that had treated her as unclean due to the chronic culturally “unclean” aspect of her condition... She was basically dead to them and believed Jesus could restore her life to one worth living.

(Vs) Mark 5:30-32 – And Jesus, perceiving in Himself that power had gone out from Him, immediately turned about in the crowd, and said, “Who touched my garments?” And His disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, ‘Who touched me?’” And He looked around to see who had done it.

Think not just about Jesus or the disciple’s response... But of the Father who had a child dying just a few streets over...

Question: How disappointing is this experience?

This side of God that says He will come with me and then stops somewhere in the middle of my moment...

- ... Does God not understand the significance of this moment in my life?

And yet He was silent... He was not the one who question Christ confused...

- Instead... “He waited and watched.”

(Vs) Mark 5:33,34 – But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. And He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your disease.”

Quote: “Jesus’ moments always result in some sort of healing and wholeness”

(Vs) Mark 5:35 – While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?”

Let yourself inside this man's head...

- ... Feels what he's feeling, be where he is... The angst and sadness!!

(Vs) Mark 5:36 – But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.”

- ... I believe that Jesus could see that this man was still with Him... still imploring Him to come and be God.

(Vs) Mark 5:37-40 – And He allowed no one to follow Him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. And when he had entered, he said to them, “Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at Him. But He put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with Him and went in where the child was.

He brought with Him, into the Moment, those who were willing to believe...

(Vs) Mark 5:41-42 – Taking her by the hand, He said to her, “Talitha cumi,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.” And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement.

See Jesus was never after the earlier “Moment of Healing” the Father wanted...

- He was after this moment right here... “A Resurrection Moment.”

Maybe it seems like God has stopped somewhere back there in the “Middle of your Moment.”

- ... Maybe He just wants you “Watch and Wait” for Him to bring to the Moment all that He's been designing all along.
- Maybe He's waiting for you to implore Him to “Come and Be God.”

Jesus didn't spend His time on earth, healing every person that He came across.

- He didn't raise everyone from the dead that He came across.
- Instead, He spent His time following His Father's will for how He should live His life, which eventually led Him to perhaps the greatest moment to have ever been... When He gave His life on a cross for you and I.

Each of us in this room must determine how we will use the time we are allotted...

- Will we live a life of Missed Moments?
- Or will we live a life investing in the ways and will of The Lord, savoring every God given “Moment in Time... from Now to Forever.”