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SERMON TITLE

Right on Time

SERIES

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KEY SCRIPTURE

Ecclesiastes 3:1

SYNOPSIS

God is always right on time... not too soon; and never too late.

HIGHLIGHTS





👉RIGHT ON TIME

In 2004, a 17-year-old Usain Bolt was already making waves as a young sprinter in Jamaica. He had raw talent, but wasn't yet known on the world stage. That year, he qualified for the Athens Olympics — a dream come true for any young athlete. But just before the Games, he suffered a hamstring injury. He still competed, but was eliminated in the first round of the 200m — not because of his ability, but because of pain and the timing of the injury. Critics wrote him off, sponsors hesitated, and coaches weren't sure he'd live up to the hype.

Fast forward to 2007. Bolt had been training hard, healing, and maturing. Right before the 2008 Beijing Olympics, his coach told him to focus not on the 200m (his preferred event), but to give the 100m a serious shot. He took that advice — and in the final of the 100m at Beijing, Bolt exploded out of the blocks. With his shoelace untied, arms spread wide before he even reached the finish, Bolt set a world record of 9.69 seconds — one of the most iconic moments in Olympic history. He followed that with gold in the 200m and 4x100m relay, breaking records in both.

If not for the early injury, he might have peaked too soon. If not for his coach's suggestion, he might never have run the 100m. But instead, everything aligned perfectly — and with just the right timing, Usain Bolt became a legend.

We've been talking about Design in the Delays, and how, with God, It's Not Too Late. It's all about timing. A lot of business and industry depend on precise timing. Trains and planes leave at appointed times, and delays or cancellations cause big problems for people. Factory machinery is fine-tuned for all the pieces to come together at just the right moment.

I'm a person who believes in being punctual; I don't like being late. But by far the most punctual person in the universe is God! He set up the galaxies and our solar system like giant time pieces, run with precision. The time of the sunrise, even a thousand years from now, can be calculated to a second! God is all-knowing and all-powerful; how can He not be on time? God's timing is always perfect. It's not always easy. Not always comfortable. But it *is* perfect.

👉Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "There's a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven." So today, we're going to talk about those times when you're stuck in the "not yet" seasons of life; when it feels like God is taking *way too long*.

👉God Runs His Own Schedule



2 Peter 3:8 says, "With the Lord, a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day." Translation? God doesn't use your planner. His timeline is nothing like ours. What feels like a delay to us is right on schedule for Him. I heard about a kid who prayed, "God, I know You're always on time, but You sure do cut it close sometimes!" Sound right?

We're down here looking at the moment we're in, but God sees the whole parade, start to finish. 📖 That's why He can say, "Trust Me. I know when the right time is." Isaiah 55:9 says, "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways..." Galatians 4:4 tells that Jesus came at the precise moment God ordained, fulfilling His redemptive plan.

God's timing in your life may be His mercy at work, preparing you, protecting you, or drawing others to Him. Trust God's schedule. He's not rushing. He's not stalling. He's working with a plan, even if we don't see it yet.

📖 It's Worth the Wait

Let's talk about those seasons where you've prayed, waited, believed... and still nothing. Habakkuk 2:3 says, "Though it linger, wait for it. It will certainly come..." Just because something hasn't 📖 happened yet doesn't mean God said no. Sometimes He's just saying, "Not yet." God's promises have an appointed time, and though they may seem slow, they are never late. Habakkuk was frustrated by injustice, but waited patiently for God's justice.

Remember Abraham and Sarah? God promised them a child... but they waited for a total of 25 years for Isaac. That's a loooooong delay. But God wasn't late. He was preparing them. Lamentations 3:25 says, "The Lord is good to those who wait for Him." ESV

It's like ordering something online. You get the confirmation email; the payment went through; but then you have to wait. The promise is *on the way*, you just don't have it in hand yet. If God has spoken it over your life, it's not canceled. It's just in transit.

We recently talked about Lazarus... You would think that when Jesus heard that he was sick, he would have stopped what He was doing and immediately gone to him. If he really loved Lazarus and the family, he would have hurried to get there. But He showed his love the opposite way. Because He loved them, he determined to perform a miracle greater than He'd done for anyone else. So, He waited until Lazarus was dead and buried before He came.



If Christ had come immediately and healed Lazarus, that would not have been any different than He'd demonstrated for dozens of others. If He'd raised him back to life right after he died, that would not have been a greater act of love than He'd demonstrated for the widow's son, or Jairus' daughter. But by delaying to answer their prayer and letting the situation become hopeless and impossible, He showed more love and power for them than anyone else! They got a greater miracle!

☞ **God's greatest plans may be signaled by His longest pauses.**

God may be waiting because the delay is good for us. He may be testing our faith or developing perseverance in us. It may actually be dangerous to give us something at this moment. And, it may be that he has something even bigger in mind than we imagined.

☞ **Learn to Wait Well**

Let's be honest. Waiting can mess with your head. You start questioning yourself, doubting God, comparing your journey to everyone else's. But Psalm 27:14 says, "Wait for the Lord; be strong and ☞ **take heart...**" It takes strength to wait well. Not just to sit around, but to **trust God with your whole heart while you wait.**

Look at Joseph in the OT. He had big dreams, but instead of immediate success, he got betrayal, slavery, and prison... 13 years of setbacks. But when the time was right, God elevated him to second-in-command over all of Egypt. Joseph waited well. He stayed faithful even when nothing made sense.

What season are you in? A time of waiting, struggle, or uncertainty? Trust that God is orchestrating His plan. Like Joseph, your delays are not wasted; they are part of His design.

Waiting on God is active reliance, not passive resignation. We are called to wait with strength and hope, knowing God renews us as we trust Him. Here are three ways to wait well:

☞ **Pray continually:** Bring your needs to God, trusting He hears (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

☞ **Stay in the Word:** Let Scripture renew your strength and perspective. (Isaiah 40:31)

☞ **Encourage one another:** Share your journey and lean on other's faith (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Isaiah 40:31 says, "Those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength..." It's like slow-cooked BBQ. You could microwave it... but it won't taste right. God slow-cooks some things in our lives because he wants quality. He's after depth, not just speed.



Now, think again about Lazarus... How long will God wait? Sometimes, until it stinks! When it really stinks, God will get complete glory! That's when you come to the end of yourself. You don't get resurrected while you're alive, you get resurrected when you're dead. It's not until we've died to ourselves, all our efforts, and a stone is placed over our tomb, that a change can come.

2 Corinthians 4:11 says, "For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body." The principle is life out of death. You may have a resurrection coming. So, wait well.

☞ The Harvest is Coming

Here's the good news: The harvest is coming. You might be planting seeds right now with no results in sight. But God says, "Don't quit. Don't dig up what you planted in faith." James 5:7 says, "Be patient, then, like a farmer who waits for the land to yield its crop."

You ever plant something? It's absolutely quiet underground for a while. But eventually, when the roots are strong and the soil has done its job, life breaks through. It's the same with your prayers, obedience and faithfulness. It's not wasted. It's maturing underground.

☞ Galatians 6:9 – "Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time, we will reap a harvest—if we don't give up."

We must grow in order to handle a bumper crop. You don't see a young apple tree bearing 150 apples; if it did it would collapse under the weight. Over time the tree grows and gets stronger so it can handle the weight of what it will bear when it's mature. It's the same way with us. We want everything now, but God knows we can't bear it, so He only gives us an apple or two until we grow spiritually stronger.

The construction business knows that "the deeper the foundation, the taller the structure can go." The depth of our spiritual foundation determines how high we can rise. God must dig down before He can raise us up.

Many think that life in the center of God's will should be easy, and if it's not easy then we're out of His will. This isn't necessarily true. Many biblical heroes experienced betrayal, hardship, loss and disappointment while being in the center of God's will. But the promise came exactly in God's time. The harvest, the promise will come.



☞ God's Clock Is Right on Time

Let's go back to this promise: **Isaiah 60:22** says, "At the right time, I, the Lord, will make it happen." That's it right there. He will make it happen. Not you; not your connections; not your effort. God will make it happen, and it'll be worth every second of the wait.

☞ **Hebrews 10:35-36** says, "So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised."

Think of your life like a train schedule. You don't control the train's arrival time. But if you walk off the platform early, you might miss it. Stay on the platform. Stay in position. The train is coming.

☞ Never close the book of your life when **God has not finished writing your story. Hang in there.** God is still working in your life.

Perfect Timing (Sweet Comfort Band)

*When I needed a shoulder to cry on; You dried all my tears
When I wanted someone to rely on; That's when you came near
And when it comes to loving me; You're the best of all
You're always in the right place at the right time; To catch me when I fall*

*You've got perfect timing;
You're not a minute too soon; Not a moment too late
You've got perfect timing; I can see when you move; I can feel when you wait
You hold tomorrow in the palm of your hand; Everything runs by your master plan
You've got perfect timing;*

Are you waiting for a breakthrough... a job, a healing, a restored relationship? Your waiting is not in vain. God is building your faith. Be still, trust Him, and wait patiently for His appointed time. God is right on time!

Another thing happened in 2004 when Jennifer Hudson auditioned for American Idol. Her voice was unmistakably powerful — soulful, gospel-trained, and full of heart. She made it to the Top 7... but was eliminated earlier than expected. Many fans were shocked. Critics called it one of the most controversial exits in Idol history. She could've disappeared like many other early exits — but then, in



2005, casting directors for the film adaptation of the musical "Dreamgirls" were looking for someone to play Effie White, a character who sings the iconic song "And I Am Telling You (I'm Not Going)" — a role that demanded raw emotion and powerhouse vocals.

Beyoncé was already cast. Big names were auditioning. But Jennifer Hudson — recently rejected from Idol — walked in and blew them away. Her performance in Dreamgirls was electrifying. When the film was released in 2006, she received standing ovations in theaters — and went on to win the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress, plus a Golden Globe, BAFTA, and SAG Award — all for her film debut.

If she hadn't been eliminated from American Idol at exactly that time, she might not have been available — or motivated — to audition for Dreamgirls. That "failure" became her launching pad. Jennifer once said: "Sometimes you have to take the long way around to get to your dream, but you get there right on time."

There it is: Right on Time. That's how God works. He knows what he's doing, even when it doesn't fit our preconceived ideas. It's worth the wait, the promise is coming, so let's wait well.