

AMAZED BY GOD'S TIMING

(John 7:1-13)

I. Life is short, eternity is endless.

- a. Billy Graham was asked in an interview what he was most surprised by in life: "Its brevity" was his answer.
- b. Listen to this description a man gave of how he viewed life as he aged: Days were plentiful and cheap when I was young. Like penny candy, I always had a pocketful – and spent them casually. Now my supply is diminished, and their value has soared. Each one becomes worth its weight in the gold of dawn. Suddenly I live in unaccustomed thrift, cherishing the hours the way lovers prize moments. Even at that, when the week is ended, it seems I've gone through another fortune. A day doesn't go as far as it used to."
- c. When you think of Jesus, if He had been reared according to man's time and in our day, His parents would have recognized Him as a gifted child, and begun His education early.
 - i. He would have been placed in the gifted class and probably started preaching when He was 12.
 - ii. He would have been given a good public relations firm, and by 20 would have international fame.
 - iii. That pr firm would have got Him to tone down some of His harsher comments and criticisms so that everyone would have loved Him.
 - iv. This way, He could have lived to be 70-80 years of age and accomplished a great deal.
- d. However, Jesus, living on God's time, didn't begin His ministry until He was 30.
 - i. He only preached for 3 ½ years.
 - ii. However, He could say at the end of that time... (John 17:4).
- e. Our goal needs to be to live like Jesus, and to do that, we have to live with the view that life is short.
 - i. Jesus knew that He did not have much time on earth.
 - ii. His life was short, and He accomplished far more in a limited time than we will in our longer time on earth.
- f. One day, we will give an account to God how we spent our time, so we must live on the terms of God's time, and not our own.

II. Living by man's time.

- a. Again, notice John 7:6.
 - i. Jesus told His brothers they could go on up to the feast because their time was "always ready".
 - ii. Some newer translations have their time was "always opportune".
 - iii. They could go to Jerusalem any time they wanted because they were not truly living for God or on His time.
- b. It is interesting to think about the brothers of Jesus who were living on man's time.
 - i. They had grown up with Him.
 - ii. It is probably the case that Joseph and Mary kept the details of the miraculous conception from the rest of the family.

- iii. This would somewhat explain their disbelief (John 7:5).
 - iv. However, these men still had seen miracles done by Jesus and still refused to believe in Him.
 - v. These men were good Jews it seems, going to the feasts as they should.
 - c. When living on man's time, as the brothers seemed to be doing, you don't live under the lordship of Jesus.
 - i. They didn't view Jesus as the Messiah.
 - ii. This allowed them to live as they wanted to.
 - iii. Today, living on man's time, constantly trying to do things our way, keeps Christ from truly being able to exercise lordship over us.
 - iv. We haven't turned everything over to Him.
 - v. Seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, doing that above all else, turns everything over to Jesus and allows Him to truly be our Lord.
 - d. When living on man's time, you go along with the culture of the world around you.
 - i. The brothers went on up to the feast, but not with Jesus.
 - ii. They went because that is what Jewish men did. iii. It wasn't out of love for God, but because all around them were doing it. iv. We can do the same thing today.
 - v. Culturally, it is acceptable to go to worship on Sundays around here.
 - vi. You can do that without God and without glorifying God. vii. You can just do it because others are doing it.
 - e. When living on man's time, you go by worldly wisdom and not godly wisdom.
 - i. It may be that the brothers meant well by challenging Him to go and show everyone who He claimed to be.
 - ii. It is possible, but I doubt it (John 7:4). iii. However, it was not God's will that Jesus go at this time and especially for that purpose.
 - iv. There was coming a time when Jesus would go to Jerusalem and reveal who He really was, but that would be at His death on the cross, not at a feast to become a political leader.
 - v. Man's wisdom says, show who you are, while God's wisdom says wait and do it when it is most appropriate and effective.

III. Living by God's time.

- a. Jesus fully submitted Himself to the will of the Father and living by and for that.
- b. To live by God's time, we are directly accountable to God for how we spend our time.
 - i. Jesus would not allow His brothers to govern His time, only the Father.
 - ii. Jesus was accountable to the Father for how He spent His time.
 - iii. It isn't easy to determine God's will in our daily schedule and how our time should be spent.
 - iv. However, we can pray about it and seek to maximize our time to His glory.
 - v. We will give an account of our time and how it was spent so we must use it as wisely as possible.

- vi. Study of God’s word, prayer, doing the good works we were created as Christians to do, are all things that show we are striving to live by God’s time and not man’s. **vii.** Thumbing constantly through social media, playing hours of video games, constantly camped out in front of a TV, are all things that show we are living by man’s time.
 - c. To live by God’s time, we live in a way that seeks to bring Him glory.
 - i. Jesus came to do the will of the Father (John 4:34).
 - ii. He was able to accomplish a great amount in a short time period. **iii.** Not everyone has to be a minister or foreign missionary. **iv.** However, we are to glorify Him in all that we do (1 Corinthians 10:31).
 - v. Our hearts are the beginning point of all that we do (Mark 7:21), so we have to begin with getting its thoughts on godly things.
 - vi. When that takes place, we can strive to accomplish what God wants us to do.
 - vii. Each of us have different abilities, and when we are focused on glorifying God, we can truly maximize those abilities to do just that.
 - d. To live by God’s time, we strive to view every situation in light of eternity.
 - i. When you think about Jesus at the well with the Samaritan woman, you see that Jesus had a view of people as souls, not just people (John 4:34-35).
 - ii. Jesus understood the view of God, and it is one we must cultivate.
 - iii. Jesus wasn’t ever selfish, He only sought to do God’s will and prepare people for the coming church.
 - iv. The church is here now, thanks to Jesus purchasing it with His blood, and we need to be doing what we can to get people in it, because that is viewing everything in light of eternity.
 - v. We need to be praying for lost souls, but also that we will strive to look at people as souls who are going to spend eternity somewhere.
 - e. To live by God’s time, we must be willing to confront the godless culture.
 - i. Jesus stood up to the cultural views of His brothers.
 - ii. He didn’t allow the fact that all of them had wrong thinking about His Messiahship to change how He viewed things.
 - iii. On one occasion, Jesus condemned the Pharisees for their attitude on an issue.
 - iv. One sitting there, a lawyer, said that when you say that about them, you insult the lawyers as well.
 - v. Jesus didn’t say, oh, I’m sorry.
 - vi. Notice what He did say (Luke 11:46).
 - vii. Jesus confronted them because they needed to hear what He had to say and He couldn’t allow their culture to influence His teaching.
 - viii. We must be willing to oppose the godlessness around us as well. **ix.** It must be spoken in the right way (Colossians 4:6) but it must be spoken.
 - x. It may be speaking out against homosexuality, or the lottery, or sports gambling, or immodesty, or atheism, or whatever sinful activity is before us.
 - xi. We must have the attitude of the Hebrews writer (Hebrews 13:6).

Not an original outline but don't know the source