

## FINDING TIME

***But the Lord said to her, “My Dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her. Luke 10:41-42***

I had to spend a few moments this morning looking for time – literally. As Nadine was getting ready to leave for work this morning, she came to me and said she could not find her watch. She thought she left it in the bedroom but could not find it. One thing Nadine has come to realize about me after a lot of time of marriage, almost 33 years, is that I am good at finding things. I inherited this gift from my father.

So, there I was searching for time in the bedroom. I got on my hands and knees looking under the bed and sure enough I spotted the watch. When I pulled it out, I realized it was Nadine’s old watch that had been missing since last summer. Still missing was her current watch which she received as a gift at Christmas. I searched some more under the bed and then began to pull back the sheets and there was the missing watch. My search proved fruitful as it helped me to find both old time (her old watch) and current time (her current watch.) The only thing missing was new time. Thankfully by finding old time and current time, I did not have to spend money on a new watch.

My morning search for time got me thinking about old times, current times, and new times. As we approach the first-year mark of living in this pandemic maybe you are like me and thinking back to old times to what life was like prior to COVID-19. For example, a year ago this week Coral’s basketball team was preparing for a weekend tournament in Hamilton. We played five games over two days. Nobody was wearing masks or social distancing. Old times just a year ago, were when life still seemed normal.

Now we are in our current time of living in a pandemic since. Our current time has been a year unlike any other, affecting us all. Even though we are still in these current times, signs of “new times” are on the horizon. We are beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel with the roll out of vaccines. Over these past few days people 80 years and above have been registering to be vaccinated. The Rev. Mother was fortunate enough to get signed up and will receive her first shot next week. With time, more and more age groups will be eligible to be vaccinated and eventually we will move to a new season of being on the other side of this pandemic.

As we move from this current time to a new time, many people are looking forward to doing the things they did in “old times” prior to the pandemic such as:

- Getting back to vacationing or heading south for the winters,
- Lunch dates and coffee dates with friends,
- Entertaining people in their homes,

- Getting the kids back to the dance studios, hockey arenas, basketball courts and so on,
- Going to the movies, theatres, sporting events and concerts.
- Getting to church or back to groups and other gatherings.

Everyone is looking forward to the “new times” ahead after enough people have been vaccinated and we can return to our normal routines. One thing our current time has done for us is slowed down our busyness. It is one thing I have heard so many people say they have appreciated about the pandemic – it has forced them to be less busy. For many people, once they enter the “new time” ahead, they will become busy again.

Regardless of which time we are in, “old time”, “current time” or “new time”, it is important that we keep searching to make time to spend with Jesus. This reminder comes out in the story of Mary and Martha in Luke 10 when they had Jesus and the disciples at their house for dinner. Martha was busy in the kitchen making dinner for her guests, while her sister Mary used the time while Jesus was there to sit at her Lord’s feet and listen to what He taught. Martha was upset that her sister was not using her time in the kitchen helping her to prepare the meal. Martha went to Jesus with her complaints about how Mary was choosing to spend her time. Jesus said to Martha

***“My Dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.”***

Jesus was not blaming Martha for being concerned about spending time doing work and chores. He was teaching her to set priorities when it comes to her time and to ensure it included spending time with Him each day.

This lesson is going to be so important for us to remember as we move forward into this “new time” after enough of society has been vaccinated and we return to our busy lives again. We need to make sure our desire to return to the busyness of “old time”, pre-Covid-19, doesn’t cut into our time spent each day with Jesus. We need to guard and prioritize our time each day that is spent with Jesus. One thing our current time in this pandemic has taught us is how much we need Jesus to help us persevere through the worst of times and appreciate the best of times.

When we start experiencing the new time ahead, let us remember in those busy Martha-moments to keep some Mary moments in our days as well, sitting at the feet of Jesus.

Keep Safe and God Bless

**Pastor Dean**