

Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

February 2, 2025

The Seamstress

Hevel

[Ecclesiastes 3:1-15](#); [Genesis 3:1-21](#), [Mark 15:33-38](#)

KEY VERSES

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:

- ² a time to be born and a time to die;*
- a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;*
- ³ a time to kill and a time to heal;*
- a time to break down and a time to build up;*
- ⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh;*
- a time to mourn and a time to dance;*
- ⁵ a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together;*
- a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;*
- ⁶ a time to seek and a time to lose;*
- a time to keep and a time to throw away;*
- ⁷ a time to tear and a time to sew;*
- a time to keep silent and a time to speak;*
- ⁸ a time to love and a time to hate;*
- a time for war and a time for peace.*

⁹ What gain have the workers from their toil? ¹⁰ I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. ¹¹ He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹² I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; ¹³ moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. ¹⁴ I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it nor anything taken from it; God has done this so that all should stand in awe before him. ¹⁵ That which is already has been, that which is to be already is, and God seeks out what has gone by.

The beautiful prose of the first eight verses paints a picture of all the different seasons we will experience throughout our lives. Verses 9-15 then help us see the seasons as yet another example that all is hevel. When we look at these seasons as fleeting, we gain wisdom to be able to live in gratitude during the good times, and be reminded that the bad times will pass too. Knowing we'll experience each season, and that the seasons themselves are hevel, how much do you REALLY trust God?

Tying this question into the larger picture of scripture helps us grasp the scope of what trusting God really means. In Genesis 3, when Adam and Eve eat the fruit and hide in shame, mortality is declared and they leave the garden. In the midst of all the blaming, sometimes we skip over the effect of the serpent's words when he causes them to doubt their trust in God (v. 4-5). Then, Mark notes Jesus' last words in his account of the crucifixion: my God, my God, why have you forsaken

me (v.34)? For a moment even Jesus struggles to trust his Father. And though he ultimately could save himself, Jesus instead breathes his last breath and succumbs to God's sovereign plan. Sin came into this world when Adam and Eve stopped trusting God. Jesus overturned that when he chose to trust God's plan for salvation for all people. How have you learned to grow in your trust of God? How have others encouraged you to follow God's plan?

The path of following Jesus does not typically follow our instincts or plans. However, when we say yes to God, flourishing begins to happen in all the different areas of our lives: generosity, forgiveness, more acceptance of others. The communion table is a great reminder that even though our actions don't always represent trust, God's response is not just when we say yes, but to the moments we say no. What refreshes you about God's steadfast love and his daily mercies - even though we regularly say no and don't follow his plan?

An often-overlooked verse, [Genesis 3:21](#) is the ultimate example of God's grace and provision for us. In spite of our lack of trust, he tracks us down, he waits for us, he provides for us. This week, make note of opportunities to say yes to Jesus, though it might feel scary or unnatural. And when you do say no, instead of hiding in shame may you feel welcomed home again, and again, and again.