

March 6, 2005

A.M. Service – Fourth Sunday of Lent  
Patchogue Church of the Nazarene

“A Kairos (Kahee-ros') Moment”

Mark 1:15-18 (NIV)

15 "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent (Turn from your sins) and believe the good news!"

16 As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 17 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." 18 At once they left their nets and followed him.

In our house we have a clock in the bathroom...that's right the bathroom. If you think about it, why not the bathroom? Most of our time in the morning before work, or preparing to go out somewhere is spent in the bathroom. Now, this clock in our bathroom is set ten minutes later than the actual time. Have you heard of this concept? The idea is to discover time you didn't know you had. As if we can trick ourselves in to thinking that the time is ten minutes later than it actually is and then discover, "oh, wow, I'm ten minutes early." Some people are always early, some are always late, I like to be right on time – if you tell me to be someplace at 8:00 I will probably not arrive at 5 minutes to 8 or 5 minutes after. I will usually be there right at 8:00. So this putting the clock ahead thing really doesn't work for me. It only confuses me. For one thing every time I look at the clock I have to do the math...to determine what the correct time is or I take my time because I know the clock was put ahead...and that usually cause me to be late.

The New Testament was written originally in common Greek language of the time and the Greeks had two words for time – chronos (khron'-os) and kairos (kahee-ros')

Chronos, which give us our word chronology, is clock time, tick-tock time, the arranged order of events - time. Each second is exactly like the one before it and the one that follows it. It is boring time, humdrum time, drudgery time, meaningless time, empty time. Let me give you some examples of chronos time.

Betty Brown was telling me how hard it is to sleep at night in the hospital. She said the hours just seem to drag on. That's chronos time. Or imagine being an office worker who hates his job and can't wait for 5:00 to come so he can get out of there, watching every tick of the clock; or remember being in a real boring class in school or college ...right after lunch. That's experiencing chronos time. Chronos time is empty time; it is a void that must be filled. It is time we must "put in" or endure. It's what we are talking about when we talk about "killing" time. So, chronos equals tick-tock time, boring time, and routine time.

Thank God, there is another kind of time. It's called kairos. Kairos time is full time, vital time, crucial time, decisive time, God's time. Kairos moments are those powerful,

extra-special moments that are packed with meaning. While chronos is tick-tock time, kairos is when time stands still.

How long has it been since you had a moment so powerful that time stood still? How long has it been since you had a powerful moment that changed your life forever?

Kairos is when God breaks into the routine and speaks loud and clear and you are touched so powerfully deep in your soul that you can never be the same again. We might call it a moment of revelation. A “ah ha” experience or a “hmmm” experience.

During Lent we have been talking about the events that led the religious leaders to seriously plot the arrest and death of Jesus. We have been looking at events at the end of Jesus’ ministry on earth. But the religious leaders did not like Jesus from the beginning of His ministry. Today I want to look at the beginning of His ministry. He was teaching that He was the Messiah and all who believed in Him would see the Kingdom of God and all who did not believe in Him would not see the Kingdom of God. The religious leaders wanted to get rid of Jesus because many were leaving them and believing in Him (especially since the time He raised Lazarus from the dead).

When Jesus started his ministry he came into Galilee preaching and saying, “The time has come, the kingdom of God is near. Repent (Turn from your sins) and believe the good news!” (“the good news about Me, I the Messiah has come.”). And the word for “time” used here in Mark 1 was not chronos, it was kairos. This was a crucial time, an important time, a significant time - God’s time.

Many experienced kairos moments when they encountered Jesus:

Lazarus – was raised by Jesus from the dead. *That* was a kairos moment.

Mary – who poured an expensive perfume on Jesus’ feet did that because she had a kairos moment previously because of Jesus.

Shortly after Jesus raised Lazarus in Bethany a town near Jerusalem, Jesus and his disciples traveled up to Galilee before returning to Bethany at the time of the Passover. Before returning to Bethany, while He was away, He healed a blind man. Nobody else was paying attention to the blind man, but Jesus heard his cries for mercy, connected with him, and it was a kairos moment. And remember the woman who came up behind Jesus, touched the hem of His robe, and He connected with her, and it was a kairos moment. I remember when I decided to believe and give my life to Jesus. That was a kairos moment and I’ve had several other kairos moments with Jesus since then.

Jesus had so many of those moments. We read one this morning (v15): “The time (the kairos) has come.” And what did Jesus do right at that kairos moment? (v16 –17) Jesus saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Come, follow me,” Right after He said, “The time has come.” His next recorded statement was, “Come, follow Me.” Right at that kairos moment, He called his disciples. It was a meaningful moment for them. It wasn’t just another tick of the clock. It was a moment that would change their life.

How long has it been since you had a powerful moment like that, that changed your life forever? How long has it been since you had a kairos moment in a chronos world? Kairos moments are all around us if we have the eyes to see them, the ears to hear them, and the hearts to feel them.

### 1. The Kingdom is near

Jesus announced that the time had come; the kingdom of God is near.

The Jews of Jesus' day understood exactly what Jesus meant when He proclaimed the time is fulfilled – or the “time” had come. When Jesus used the Greek word, kairos, it indicated to them that a particular time period with its beginning marked by an extremely important event had come. It placed Jesus' coming in the center of God's plan for salvation. The Old Testament prophets often spoke of the future kingdom, ruled by a descendant of King David, that would be established on earth and exist for eternity. Thus when Jesus spoke of the “time” and the presence of the kingdom of God, the Jews understood Him to mean that the Messiah had come to inaugurate His long-awaited kingdom. Jesus announced that the most critical time had come. The door to God's great future had been flung open. The everlasting kingdom has not yet begun, yet the kingdom was as near as people's willingness to make Jesus king over their lives. As Jesus said, (Luke 17:21 NIV) “The kingdom of God is within you”. The kingdom is as near as accepting Jesus' sacrifice for salvation. For Jesus told us how to enter this kingdom:

### 2. Repent and Believe

“Repent (Turn from your sins) and believe the good news!” The message is the same today. Becoming a follower of Christ means turning away from our self-centeredness and “self” control and turning our lives over to Christ's direction and control. Repentance has two sides -- turning away from sin and believing in the good news. The Good News, the gospel, means that Jesus, the promised Messiah, has come to usher in a new age of God's dealings with his people.

### 3. Follow

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said,...At once they left their nets and followed Him.

It means to accept Jesus as authority, to pursue His calling, to model after His example, to join His group.

Their lives had changed; their allegiance was now to Jesus. The Bible teaches a radical discipleship; a person must leave all behind to follow Jesus.

What does Christ expect you to leave behind to follow him?

What sacrifice of personal achievement, wealth, or position does Christ ask you to make?

What prevents you from following Jesus immediately and wholeheartedly?

What must you do to eliminate these hindrances from your life?

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Note that they left their nets at once and followed Jesus. They didn't make excuses about why it wasn't a good time, but at once they followed Him. Jesus calls each of us to follow Him. When Jesus asks us to serve Him, we must be like the disciples and do it at once. What is Jesus asking you to do? This is your kairos moment - a powerful moment that can change your life forever. Jesus says to you this morning, "The time has come, this is your kairos moment...Come, follow Me."