



Living Lent | March 24

His Timing is Perfect

Now some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, "Is not this the man whom they are trying to kill? And here he is, speaking openly, but they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Messiah? Yet we know where this man is from; but when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from." Then

Jesus cried out as he was teaching in the temple, "You know me, and you know where I am from. I have not come on my own. But the one who sent me is true, and you do not know him. I know him, because I am from him, and he sent me." Then they tried to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him, because his hour had not yet come.

John 7: 25-30 (NRSV)

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

Like many native Floridians, I grew up spending a week of vacation in the mountains of North Carolina each summer. These short visits planted a deep love of nature in my heart with the beauty of streams and forests becoming an easy place of connection to the Father. It is no wonder that I dreamed of living there some day.

For more than twenty years this dream was part of me. I longed for the retreat into the refreshing trails, the adventure of hiking and exploring, the calm and peaceful stillness of the quiet woods. In recent years, the dream expanded into a desire to invite others enjoy the beauty, to be still and listen to the Lord.

After twenty years of dreaming, praying, and waiting, I can happily say I am enjoying living in the mountains of North Carolina and hosting people who desire to spend a few days connecting with the Lord is such a place. There were plenty of times I wondered if it would ever happen. But God's timing is perfect!

Reading the words of John 7, I am struck by the statement “They tried to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him, because his hour had not yet come.” (emphasis added). Jesus had a clear vision. He knew exactly what His purpose was. He could see the hardship that was coming, but also knew the beauty of what that hardship would bring. Even having a clear picture of what was coming, He waited, knowing the time had not yet come.

Sometimes what we are waiting for is wonderful. Sometimes it is tragic and hard. Sometimes it is both. Sometimes we want the awaited “hour” to be now, and sometimes we are very thankful that the “hour has not yet come.” Just as Jesus walked in perfect peace, knowing He could trust His Father no matter what was to come and no matter when it came, we can also. The Father is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is trustworthy.

And HIS timing is always PERFECT.

Contributor and Contributing Body of Christ

The author (name withheld for security reasons) is on staff with Cafe 1040, a missions mobilization ministry that seeks to lead a generation of missionaries to take the story of Jesus where it has never been told, often in locations hostile to the gospel. She is on the Staff Care Team, seeking to uplift, encourage and care for the overseas and stateside staff of Cafe 1040. She is also delighting in the beauty of God’s creation and the opportunity to invite others to pause and listen to God’s voice in the midst of it.

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402 Courtney Hodges Blvd, Ste 201
Perry, GA 31069

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