

INTRO

- How would you describe the pace of your life right now: slow, fast, just right?

This Lent series explores how to trust God even when we feel His absence from our lives. We'll ask tough questions and discover that God is big and good enough to handle them.

READ

Hab 2:2-3 "If it seems slow, wait for it"

REFLECT & RESPOND

In contrast to technology and our culture, the pace of the Bible does not happen quickly. Frustratingly, God rarely explains the reasons behind his timeline. But we are invited to trust his wisdom and goodness in the process.

Qu: in what ways do you think the pace and convenience of modern life affect our expectations of God?

Waiting still hurts and makes us heartsick (Pr 13:12). In times when God seems to be acting slowly on our behalf, we are tempted in 2 ways: taking control ("helping God out") or checking out (disengaging from God, others, our faith).

Qu: which of the 2 temptations are you most prone to? Why do you think we are tempted in these ways?

Time is constant but we perceive it vastly differently, e.g., compare 1 hour in traffic vs 1 hour with a good friend, or watching your favourite series. In the NT, the Greeks had 2 words for time: *Chronos* and *Kairos*.

Chronos refers to the measure of time, such as seconds, minutes, and hours. When we ask for the time, we receive a response based on the clock.

Kairos refers to the right or opportune moment. If asked what time it is, a pregnant woman might say "still waiting" or "not yet."

In John's gospel, Jesus regularly says, "My time/hour has not yet come." He's referring to the climactic event of his death. Then, in Jn 12:27-28: "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Jn 12:27-28

Qu: Jesus seemed to be more conscious of Kairos-time than Chronos-time. How does this help us when God seems slow?

Although deeply troubled by what's ahead, he recognizes the *kairos* moment and trusts God's process nonetheless. From this example, when God seems slow, we can:

- Acknowledge the heartache in waiting (the way of lament)
- Not waste the waiting—God is always working either on *it* (what you're waiting for) or *you*. Our deepest Christlike formation usually comes from seasons of waiting on God.
- Stay *Kairos*-conscious while waiting: what time is it for you? What is God doing with the waiting?

Being a disciple of Jesus means we've signed up for a lifetime of waiting, longing for his return and for his kingdom to come. We can always pray in it all: "Father, glorify your name."

Qu: how do Jesus' example and our discussion help you redeem the time of waiting?

RESPOND & PRAY

- Pray for those experiencing the discouragement of delayed answers
- Pray for a *Kairos* awareness to the time we are in, and that we'd respond accordingly.