

## **A DEVOTIONAL SERIES ON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN ABOUT JESUS CHRIST**

### **GOD'S TIME IS GOD'S TIME**

John 7:8 "(Jesus said) . . . My time has not yet fully come."

In the first seven verses of this chapter, Jesus is being encouraged to become much more public with His ministry. His brothers said to Him, ". . . go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world.'" (John 7:3-4)

Jesus was not interested in His personal popularity among the people, although it appears perhaps His brothers were. Jesus knew He was on the way to Calvary's cross, not on a mission to enhance His own personal popularity, public acceptance, power and prestige. To their urging, Jesus responded, "My time has not yet come. . . ." (John 7:6)

Jesus was not interested in a marketing campaign. He did not need nor want to become more well known. His Father sent Him to "seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19:10) Every word Jesus spoke; all the miracles He performed had one purpose. They served as signs to those who heard or saw what he said or did that He was the Messiah, long ago promised by Yahweh to bring sinners back into their heavenly Father's kingdom.

The time did come when Jesus was arrested, tried, convicted and crucified. Those who put Him to death did so because they saw Him as an enemy of God's chosen people., He was, in fact, the opposite. He was their Savior. They simply ignored all the words and miracles of Jesus that told them He was the true and only God promised Messiah. Their unbelief blinded them, made them deaf to Jesus' message and their hearts were hardened to God's grace offered by Him in the saving person and work of His Son.

There is still time for you and the world. Jesus came, carried out God's salvation plan. He now sits at God's right-hand begging and pleading for the souls of those for whom He lived, died and rose again. The time for His coming is not yet, but

He is returning to judge the living and the dead at a time in the future. God's plan has not changed. "Whoever believes in His Son shall not perish but received everlasting life." (John 3:16) His promise is to you and literally the whole world. Indeed, God would have all men to be saved, but He also says only those who believe in His Son will receive the everlasting life He desires them to have. (1 Timothy 2:4)

Prayer: Lord, give me ears to hear and eyes to see Jesus, Your Son, as my personal Savior from sin and the only way to be with you forever. In His name. Amen.

Refrain: Listen, Listen, God is calling Through the Word inviting,  
Offering forgiveness, Comfort, and joy.

Jesus gave His mandate: Share the good news  
That He came to save us— And set us free. Refrain:

Let none be forgotten Throughout the world.  
In the triune name of God Go and baptize. Refrain:

Help us to be faithful, Standing steadfast,  
Walking in your precepts,—Led by Your Word. Refrain:  
(LSB 833)