

## *A Season for Everything*

### *Bumper video on busyness*

*Are you at the place in your life today where you would just like a little breathing room? Today we continue our sermon series entitled "Breathing Room".*

*Are you in a busy season? What season of life are you in? What does that even mean? Popular phrase... But do you see these seasons as constraints or opportunities? Do they define you or refine you? Are you really in a busy season or busy as a lifestyle?*

*Brent's story (5 min)*

*Severe allergies since birth; always on medication; getting sick in fall of year with sinus infections, antibiotics. (even first date with Serena- sinus infection, felt miserable – Jungle Book) Grew to hate and dread the fall season when most people love it (Serena). That season to me equated it to pain and misery.*

*Prayer for relief, always dreamt about moving to Arizona; rode a bike to the library monthly to read the latest edition of "Arizona Highway." Other relief: Began reading the book of Ecclesiastes in October every year for the next 20 years. Who does that for comfort??*

*In 1999 an opportunity to move to Arizona-Neither of us has moved anywhere outside Oklahoma, this was going to be a stretch. After much prayer/consideration we made that move. Allergies cleared instantly for me; youngest daughter's asthma subsided. That was dramatic and an answer to much prayer. The flipside; new form of misery for Serena- hates the desert – no green.*

*Little did we know what God's new season was about to open up and prepare for our family.*

*Don't know what kind of season you are in; but there is an alternative to letting your "seasons" define you or confine you. You have to understand the one who created the times and seasons.*

*Pastor Serena will be delivering our message today in the book of Ecclesiastes to which contain tons of wisdom for everyday life. Our life is filled with times and seasons, not to stump us, but to grow us and move us closer to GOD and his season for us.*

*\*Ecclesiastes 3 might be the most famous chapter in this book, especially if you grew up in the sixties. Because 1960's pop musical group "The Birds" wrote a whole song based on chapter 3 entitled: Turn, Turn, Turn. Here to perform that live is Ricardo Semeria and Esther Campbell!!!*

(3 min 2. 5min) (Song- Turn, turn, turn) Ricky and Esther

Serena Prayer

### **\*Ecclesiastes 3**

There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under the heavens:  
**2**a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to uproot,  
**3**a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,  
**4**a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance,  
**5**a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,  
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,  
**6**a time to search and a time to give up,  
a time to keep and a time to throw away,  
**7**a time to tear and a time to mend,  
a time to be 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.

That song Turn turn turn is almost word for word Ecclesiastes 3. And it has one primary message. There is a season for everything. It's a snapshot

of the times and emotions that we experience in life. We won't look at all of them, but let me point out a few.

PRAY season very busy, season stuck in this season don't see God moving  
As we look at seasons of our lives In Jesus Name Amen

There is a time for love and a time for hate. We are all about the first one. We want to love and be loved. All our songs are about love. (Love makes the world go round, Crazy in love Beyonce,' Endless love Diana Ross Lionel Ritchie, I can't stop loving you Ray Charles, Love works for us. But hate? yes **There is a time for hate.** Let me give you an example....

- Violence of mass proportions – Violence of mass shootings –

In times like these someone always wants to blame it on God. Why didn't God stop this. Meanwhile we are watching the latest release violent movies and tv shows and investing video games where violence is the norm. When someone acts out what they see we are numb with disbelief, then we run to God and blame him.

There is a time to hate darkness.

- Suicide rate for 15-34 increased last 10 yr –different factors – what is driving that? One cruel post on social media has serious repercussions. Can devastate a life. Can devastate a young life.
- God hates EVIL Prov 6:16 tells us
- There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: <sup>17</sup> haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, <sup>18</sup> a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, <sup>19</sup> a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up dissension among a family.
- What drives meanness – the enemy of our soul. The devil
- 
- Our battle is not against flesh and blood against this forces of darkness– we hate the enemy.
- There is also time for hate when freedom and dignity is stolen

In a biography about Abraham Lincoln the author details a picture of young Lincoln the first time he saw a living slave offered in New Orleans

on the slave block. Lincoln's response to what he saw, "**There was a hatred rising inside of me against slavery, and I swore if someday I could do something about it, I would do something about it.**"

There is a time for war and a time for peace. we want peace. Everyone wants peace. But there is a time when good people have to stand up against evil. There is a time when a nation of good people need to stand up against leaders and dictators who are murdering innocent people – including our brothers and sisters of faith.

I wish it wasn't so, but there is a time for war.

I want to just take a moment to thank those of you in this room (and those watching online) who have sacrificed for our freedom. As well as those of you were who remained at home while your spouse fought to protect our freedom.

There is a time for everything. There are seasons for everything. God has set these appointed times and seasons.

In the sermon series of BREATHING ROOM  
we all need breathing room (breathe) with God.

Parents Single parents all our Parents in this church – I am praying for you,  
– breathing room right now.

Parents live in a **season of nonstop activity**: one kid's sick, one needs help with homework, one is hungry, one kid has an oweee, one kid needs a breathing treatment, one dumps all toys from the toy box everywhere and scatters all over the house and there's the one who thinks they're Picasso and decorates the walls with permanent marker.

How many parents of young children have in the room?

As a parent of young children sometimes your Breathing Room dwindles – I remember this season, God taught me to dance – instead of cry (Ecc 3:4)

When our 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter born we had the choice of leaving her in hospital for a week or monitoring her at home in a little lighted incubator that resembled a suitcase.

- 24 hour watch under the lights. Brent and I decided we could have 4 hr shifts. One person sleeps, the other watches the baby
- whose going to go get groceries, do the cooking and watch the toddler?
- My Mom came. After 2 weeks, baby was well except we all 5 of us had colds even the baby. I thought at least we get more sleep . . . not yet.
- Sleepless season extended itself and turned into a season of COLIC
- 1month old colic , every night from 11:30 to 2:30am baby would cry.
- What would make baby quiet down, mommy dancing with baby in arms to Olivia Newton John's lullaby CD
- For hours I would dance then carefully put baby in the baby swing, 10 minutes, crying began --
- Dance again round and round By 3:00am everyone would be asleep until toddler gets up 7:30am
- Mommy only needs 4.5 hours of sleep. month goes by
- Mommy goes to health food store buy "little remedies" gas relief drops --- —all natural, 1 drop, 2 drops hold your breath – send up a prayer -- that didn't work
- Mommy still up someone dancing with baby until 3 in morning.
- Then a friend at church mentioned wine, yes I should try that
- What – for baby? Wait. Wine does it work?
- ?? I might have tried it? Dropper dil----u-----ted.
- Next 3 months I learned to dance in my sleep.

**Season of little sleep** -God taught me to **dance instead of cry.**

**Parent or grandparent you have probably been thru the**

**Season of finicky eaters:** always one: “

-“nothing green” can be on their plate,

I always make spaghetti and meatballs for my grandkids and homemade bread sticks. One of the boys says “Cece what’s that green thing, in my spaghetti.” “What green thing Wyatt – all i see is spaghettiit sauce.” Wyatt points to it, a teeny, tiny microscopic flake in his spaghetti sauce – that’s oregano Wyatt, eat it and be thankful.

**Season of the strong willed child** – – you know that’s genetic, right? Of course it can skip a generation. I recall many trips to the health food store. There were small aisles, little carts, youngest scooted along. Anything that looked like Cocoa Puffs or Captain Crunch she would toss into the cart then run to next aisle. She knew sugar was off limits –you don’t give sugar to a child taking two albuterol treatments a day. As I’m chasing after this strong willed child and hurriedly replacing sugared cereals back on the shelf, an older lady stops me and says, “Oh honey, your girls are so cute, this is the best time of life, when they’re small, enjoy them it while you can, the time will pass quickly. I just stood there hmmm – I was speechless! Completely illogical. This was the best part of my life?

She was right! That season ranks near the top.

You know this: There are times in life that are just busy. seasons with less breathing room. This too shall pass.

**The question is: Do you find yourself in a season of busy or have you fallen into a lifestyle of busy?**

It’s okay to be in a season of busy. **Some of the best times in our life will be seasons of busy.** But if you realize you are always busy – running from place to place, tired, with a lack of patience, then maybe you’re not in a SEASON, but **A lifestyle of busy.** If you don’t know, ask a friend. Talk to your spouse. They’ll tell you.

**\*\*Picture** Or do the backseat test: what is in the backseat of your vehicle?

It's okay to be in a **season of busy** but it's not okay to be in a **lifestyle of busy**.

When you are in a lifestyle of busy the things that really matter lose priority.

We get burned out.

The people who count the most lose priority.

God falls off our matters list.

Breathing room dwindles into thin air – non existent

How can we avoid falling into a lifestyle of busy.

Ecclesiastes 3 has some great words for us this morning.

Look with me at verse 9.

***9 What do workers gain from their toil? 10 I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. Ecclesiastes 3:9-11***

Underline this line. He has made Everything beautiful in its time. God made every season. Our lives are filled with times and seasons. We have the season of childhood, the season of adolescence. We have high school seasons and college seasons and married seasons, career seasons. Our lives are full of seasons.

Wisdom: Invite God into your current season, He makes it beautiful. He makes everything beautiful. God is the only one has power and wisdom to that.

- Students you are ending a season of school, tough season, commit to finish strong 2024 school year is almost complete.
- Lean into breathing room with God as you study for final exams.

- God is waiting for you to lean in—turn on a worship song –dance.

Now I'm going to say something difficult . . . Some of you may be restless, ready trade your current season in for the next one.

- Singles: are you dissatisfied with your season of being alone for breakfast and supper; tired of going on vacation by yourself. Or with your parents. – you want to be married.
- Other people asking you when you're going to get married doesn't help.
- Apostle Paul applauds being single, the ability to be single and join God where He is working without having the responsibility for a spouse or family. I'm not discounting the longing of your heart to be married. **But know that God is working in your current season.**
- Married people – wishing they were single – you're dissatisfied with your marriage – you **want** to go on vacation by yourself. Strongly urge you to have breathing room with God – he will reveal what needs to change in YOU.
- We didn't get married so that we could change our spouse. But to love them as they are.
- Watch for how God is working in this season.

Also **Financially hard seasons, and jobless seasons,**

You're doing everything you can to land a steady job while your best friend has a great job but with a supervisor that's making them miserable.

- **Tough seasons of heartbreak**
  - Some are navigating a loss of a relationship, or a loss of job, or what used to be . . .
  - It's Time to release what has been and embrace a new season. Breathing Room with God will guide you in your next season.

**\*\*The Season you're trying to escape is the season God is using to help you.** You can't force your way into another season.



- When I look at difficult seasons in my life
- God was teaching me a LOT about people – their journeys
- He was teaching me about myself
- Reshaping my heart to love more, to forgive more, to be kind and joyful
- Grit, and resilience
- God uses each season to teach you that He is faithful
- Lean in . . . lean into God, His will,
- His willpower in you will open many doors.
- You can TRUST HIM in this season.

Listen, God can make everything beautiful, only does it in it's time.

In other words, you don't have to do everything.

**\*You aren't called to do everything.**

**Tell person beside you.**

- New trend in our culture: busyness equates to significance.
- Earlier centuries leisure time signified social status and wealth.
- Now our culture embraces overtime and an impacted schedule.
- Even people coming into our country have noticed this.
- When interviewed these newcomers said, "We're busy -- we're good."
- • [Harvard Business Review Mar/Apr 2023](#)
- • "Work, not leisure, is now the signifier of dominant social status." Or as Gordon Gekko says in the movie *Wall Street*, "Lunch is for wimps." What has made us drift into workaholics . . .
- [We confuse busyness with significance](#)
- • [Your significance is not tied to "hours spent at work"](#)
- You don't have to run around and volunteer for everything or go on every mission trip or feed every homeless person.
- You just have to do what God has called you to do in this season. That's the whole point of Ecclesiastes 3.

Let me take you back to verse one. Verse one has some great wisdom for finding breathing room in your life. This whole verse turns on one letter. Put this letter in and you have breathing room. Take it out and your life is crazy busy and you're in trouble. See if you can pick it out.

***There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens. Ecclesiastes 3:1***

Did you see the letter I'm talking about. **It's the letter A.** It's only one letter but it can determine an entire lifestyle.

**\*\*There is a time for everything. Not - there is time for everything.**

That one little letter makes all the difference. If you live your life like there is time for everything, you are in trouble.

- You will say yes to everything.
- You'll say yes to volunteering at school, you'll **volunteer for extra work** projects
- and softball leagues, soccer, and book clubs, charity fundraisers
- home repair projects and feeding the homeless.
  
- There is **a time** for everything. But there isn't time for everything. You can't do it all. You have to **stay** within the season that God has called you to in this time.

If you try to do everything you're relationships, family, and your productivity will bear the consequences of a lifestyle of busyness – you'll experience **burn out**.

***When Scripture says "everything in its time," means each "thing" has a appropriate time v. 2-8.***

You are not called to do everything.

**\*\*You are called to join God in what he is doing.**

**God has placed eternity in your heart – a void in your heart only filled by what is divine – for God.**

**There will be divine satisfaction regardless of the labor. Because you are joining him where He is already working.**

***\*I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. 13 That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil – this is the gift of God. Ecclesiastes 3:12,13***

The satisfaction of our work, our relationships comes only from GOD. IT is a GIFT.

***\*14 I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that people will fear him.***

This is an important verse for anyone one who wants to leave a legacy in this life.

- **Joining God in the work He is doing will produce OUTCOMES that endure forever.** It's not your great ideas, brainstorming or efforts that will endure.
- Those will all fade. Only the things that God does will endure forever.

So here's our job. Live into Breathing Room – breathing room with God. He will show you the “next steps.” Join him in what he's doing – endure, last forever

***For Brent and family, that meant to literally move and relocate. We had no idea what kind of new season God had in store for us...all we could see is what's under the sun. That is the only vantage point we were given.***

***BUT OUR GOD, was working beyond what we could imagine. He was preparing us for a new season of person/spiritual growth in ministry and leadership-as well as challenge and at times setbacks and heartaches- - God brought us to Modesto for a - church plant opportunity and co-incident career opportunity.***

- *What did Brent and I have to do: we had to physically move out of the season we were in, to respond to God's move in us.*
- ***(Ecc 3:2 "uproot" our family to plant something new)***
- *For you, that may not be moving, but releasing what is holding you to the past to follow God into your future -- moving in the same direction God's moving*

(It's okay for you to say yes to something that will make you busy for a season).

Practice breathing room – intentionally ask God to speak. As we close I want you to bow your heads. I want to ask you a couple questions.

Are you a habitually busy person? If you answered YES, Your busyness isn't a season. It's a lifestyle. What can you release to God that will decrease busyness? In your life what really matters to God?

Eyes closed

*Some of you may feel "stuck" in a season, you can't get out of it – you don't see any progress – You are desperate for a move of GOD.*

- ***This season has purpose.*** God is going to reveal something to you about yourself and your season.
- *All things are made beautiful in His time!*
- *Maybe things not moving because it's not the appropriate time;*
- *Maybe God is calling you to move in a different direction and be prepare for your next "appointed" season. (may not be logical)*
- ***It may cause you to be busy for a season, but for a reason, a reason that has no explanation "under the sun" because it is beyond "under***

*the sun," because brother and sister, YOU were created with eternity  
in your heart and God has made everything beautiful for its own  
time.*

How will you respond to God in this season?