

In His Time

"In His time. In His time. He makes all things beautiful in His time. Lord, please show me every day, as You're teaching me Your way, that you do just what You say, in Your time.

In Your time. In Your time. You make all things beautiful, in Your time. Lord, my life to you I bring. May each song I have to sing, be to you a lovely thing, in Your time."

It's a beautiful song. The melody carries a soothing, yet serious tone. The words are simple, but if sung with sincerity, we confess a deep trust in God during difficult times. Think about it. The song implies that we may be tempted to doubt God's promises. If we're not careful, we may not want to give God our lives if we feel He's robbing us in some way. If that happens, songs of praise may be replaced with angry complaints.

While it is true that God will do just what He says in His time, it doesn't always feel that way. I seriously considered my responsibility to brethren who could be hurting, worried, scared, sad, or unsure. What's the right thing to say? I think of Job's friends. If you're gonna say something, be careful. Do we say, "It's okay. Everything works out over time." Is that always true? Is that dismissive? Does ignoring the pain help? Should we not acknowledge the trial? "Well, should we give them no hope?" Of course we want to give hope. Of course we want to comfort. And to that point, I want to remind you of God's love for you, and remind the church that God's people are to be committed to those who are hurting. Weep with those who weep and so on. But I also want to speak honestly about trials. The truth is, this world is broken, and that's not a good feeling. Wonderful and difficult, life-changing moments exist. They all exist. This led me to a particular chapter in Ecclesiastes.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

While it is true that God is faithful to His promises, He doesn't promise life without death, healing without killing, building up without breaking down, laughter without weeping, dancing without mourning, embracing without separating, seeking without losing, sewing without tearing, love without hate, or peace without war.

Those aren't just words. *They're experiences.*

Biblical:

It's great to be chosen by God. It's hard to leave your home.

It's incredible to cross through a sea. It's rough wandering in the wilderness.

It's faith-building to watch God conquer your enemies. It's confusing when they take over.

It's salvation to hear Jesus rose from the grave. It kills you to watch Him die.

Personal:

You've experienced the seasons Ecclesiastes describes. No doubt, one of those seasons describes you.

- It's becoming something new ourselves when holding a firstborn. It's losing yourself to watch them pass.
- It's security watching mom and dad embrace. It's uncertainty when you see them separate.

- It's finding home to you hear your beloved say, "I do." It's heart-crushing when they say, "I won't."
- It's doable when financial goals come together. It's defeat when they fall apart.
- The colors outside really pop when life is easy. It's very grey when storms hit.

What are your stories? I wonder what you're going through today?

Ecclesiastes 3:9-15

- There's something to being busy. I don't offer this dismissively, but rather practically.
- "God sees the whole. We live in the middle." Not mine, but well said. You're never going to answer every big question. You can either bury yourself in what you don't know or enjoy what you do know.
- There is liberty in letting go. We're not promoting irresponsibility, but rather promoting trust.

Ecclesiastes 3:16-22

- At some point we have to accept, internally, that the world is broken, cruel, and unfair. Sometimes unrighteousness is found within the "righteous." Stop setting yourself up to be let down.
- God will judge at the end, but the end doesn't correspond with the present. Many times, evil does succeed and seem to be the winners.
- Yet, we must remember that no one saves themselves from death. We all return to dust. The end looks the same on this side of heaven.
- We come back to a recurring theme. We choose where we will place our trust even when our emotions have not caught up.

So, God will make all things beautiful in His time. But it doesn't always look pretty down here. He never said that. He will eventually right all wrongs. Evil will be addressed and destroyed. These are the truths we cling to when it's war and not peace. Death and not life. Breaking down instead of building up. And, above all, we look to Jesus, who lived and experienced what we do. ***This is key to remember.*** Jesus, God in the flesh, did not stay at arm's length. He didn't tell you, "You can do this." He's saying, "We'll do this together, and I know how to lead you through having been there before." Think about our opening verses and consider how much Jesus could relate to them. Jesus experienced the seasons you're describing. He wept. He was rejected. He suffered injustice. He was separated from people He loved. He died. And resurrection means death did not get the final word.

- **There is a time to weep.** So we don't pretend we're not hurting.
- **There is a time to mourn.** So we don't rush grieving people.
- **There is a time to die.** So Christianity doesn't pretend death isn't real.
- **But none of those times is forever.**