



Wednesday, September 22nd- 6:30 pm

Facing Life's Challenges

Week 2- The Challenge of Time's Limits

Psalm 39:4-6; Mark 13:32-37

* We often feel that we don't have enough time to do what we want and need to do. How do we live our best life with the limited time we have?

-Other Scripture that follows this theme: Psalm 90 and James 4:13-17.

1. What Time It Is (Psalm 39:4-6)

* Psalm 39 is a lament Psalm.

-A Psalm of lament is a Hebrew poem or song that cries out to God in grief and sadness, often asking for God's blessing.

*The Psalmist is facing many struggles:

1. The struggle of a heavy weight of care (Psalm 39:2).
2. A serious problem, possibly an illness (Psalm 39:10).
3. A mocking opponent (Psalm 39:8).

*Psalm 39:4-6 builds on images of time running out without meaning and purpose.

2. Uncertainty Never Goes Away (Mark 13:32)

* Mark 13 is often referred to as the "Little Apocalypse" due to its eschatological warnings and nature.

-The chapter begins with Jesus leaving the Temple and predicting its destruction.

-Peter, James, John, and Andrew ask when the temple might be destroyed and how they would know. The rest of Mark 13 is Jesus' reply to their question.

*Mark 13 is often discussed related to a focus on living right, because we never know when the end of the age or the return of Christ will come.

*Mark 13:32 reminds us that none of us know when the end of time will come, but we also don't know that for ourselves personally.

Resource: Poole, Charles E. and Cecil Sherman, *Facing Life's Challenges*
(Macon, Georgia: NextSunday Resources, 2008)

-At some point, we all face death, and we don't know when that will come. Perhaps these words are just as relevant not just in a global eschatology, but for our own personal eschatology as well.

3. Be Ready (Mark 13:33-35)

*Jesus instructs the disciples to always be "ready" or "alert."

*What are the things or responsibilities Jesus has left for us to do?

-Jesus reminds us that we cannot wait until the last minute, because there will not be enough time.

-Instead, we must be deliberate and consistent in serving the Kingdom throughout our life.

*How can we be sure that we are "ready at all times"?

4. Changing Fear to Welcome (Mark 13:36-37)

*The reality of death and the limits of time present us with the question: how do we use the time that we have?

-Regardless of our age or stage in life, we must all choose the way we spend our time.

*How do we make wise choices about how to live within our time and what we do with our lives?

*What priorities do we need to change, so that we greet Christ or death without fear?