

DEVOTION – Colossians 4:2-6

Accompanies [*The Right Place at the Perfect Time: Clark's Story*](#)

²Devote yourselves to prayers, being watchful and thankful. ³And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. ⁵Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Opportunity. We just never know when it might arrive. So we have to be ready to seize those opportunities when they actually do arrive. The congregation we just saw in the video had no idea that there might be someone who needed to hear the gospel light in the park where they were conducting their worship service that day. They had no idea that Clark, who was troubled and in need of hope, would happen to be there playing basketball and take notice. They made him feel welcome, and most importantly, they took the opportunity to share the message of Jesus with him. They were ready when that door opened to minister to him.

The Apostle Paul wrote his letter to the Colossians while he was under house arrest in Rome. He had no idea what his future would be, and, in that situation, he likely didn't have as many opportunities as he often had to share the gospel. Still, he asked the Colossians to pray that God might still open doors so that he and others could share it. And he added one more thing to his request: **[“make the most of every opportunity.”](#)**

Have you ever approached your contact with others in that way? It's much easier for us to avoid the subject of religion with others, let alone the actual gospel message. Satan has done a great job of making our world a difficult environment in which to talk about Jesus. While it's true that if you know you're going to be in a circumstance where gospel comfort and encouragement will apply—such as a funeral or a hospital visit—you can think about what you might say. But it's harder to plan how you're going to approach a situation that you aren't expecting.

And yet, you can still prepare. That preparation starts with prayer, which Paul encourages in these words before us. Pray for those opportunities to demonstrate your faith as well as talk about it with others. You might be a bit scared to do that. After all, you're asking God to put you in what might be a challenging situation. But remember: you're not alone. Jesus has promised to be with you. He has also sent the Holy Spirit into your life so he can guide your thoughts and even give you the words to say. Also, as Paul suggests, you will also want

to “[be wise in the way you act toward outsiders.](#),” because you don't want to short-circuit your opportunity before it even comes up. When you see that opportunity to share Jesus, do it! And trust that God will guide you through it.

There's more you can do to prepare for such opportunities. You can be in God's Word yourself. Learning at the feet of your Savior will better prepare you for those times that will come to share your faith. As you grow in your knowledge of Scripture, you will grow more confident in talking about what you believe. Not only that, but the Holy Spirit promises to strengthen your faith, which moves you to want to share what you've learned with others, especially when those opportunities come.

I read a story once about Billy Graham and President John F. Kennedy. Graham attended a prayer breakfast hosted by the president, but that day he was suffering from the flu. Feeling terrible, he spoke for a short time at the breakfast, and afterward he walked with the President to his armored limousine, which was his custom. It was cold that day, and Rev. Graham wasn't wearing a coat. He kept his distance while making small talk with the President. Eventually they reached the car, and the president asked him to ride with him back to the White House because he wanted to talk with him about something. Rev. Graham said, *“I'd love to, Mr. President, but I can't. I left my coat inside, and I have a fever and I'm afraid I might get you sick. Perhaps another time?”* And the President accepted this and they parted ways. A few days later, President Kennedy was assassinated, and he and Rev. Graham never did get to have that talk. We don't know what President Kennedy wanted to talk about, but it was likely something involving faith. Graham had said through the rest of his life, he regretted not taking that opportunity.

My friends, Christians have such opportunities to share the gospel every day. Pray that you and others seize those opportunities and share Jesus, so more people can be drawn to the light of the gospel. Prepare yourself by being in God's Word regularly, so that when those opportunities do come, you can make the most of them. It might just be the right place at the perfect time.

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