



Pastor Hanke's Blog

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Immediately: How Does Jesus View Time as a Human?

I began working at a very young age. It has always been a part of my natural rhythm. In high school I was a normal kid who liked to sleep in on Saturdays, but I still worked. In college I picked up something new—procrastination. (I think I might have even had a class on it.) There were times I just didn't want to work, or things I didn't want to do. It seemed like no matter what job or task I was doing, the feeling would eventually find me. I thought that by being a pastor I could avoid it, but it still found me. Procrastination is one of the ways I handled the tasks I didn't want to do, with the hope that if I waited it would get better, or I wouldn't have to do it at all. When I realized this tactic did not work, I started whining to God about what I didn't want to do. I would tell Him how unfair my life was, even though He had blessed me with so much. As you might imagine, this didn't really work either. Instead, I often felt drained and burdened by life.

We are reading from the shortest of all the Gospels—Mark—and the cool thing is we can't get lost in the words or the details. Mark makes every word count, which is why we are taking time to dissect them. Mark says that after Jesus found the disciples, "...*immediately* on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching." Jesus wasted no time. He knew there was a job to do and so He started right away. Jesus knew His job was to begin teaching, which would lead to suffering, so He could complete the promise to rescue us. *Immediately* people could see there was something about the way He did His job (teaching). But they also could see that Jesus knew there was a time to rest. Even though His time was short, He was still going to rest.

So what can we learn from Jesus? First, and most importantly, He knew how important you were to Him, so much so that the minute after he was baptized, He got to work. I think that is what we take from Mark; Jesus had a job to do, and procrastination was not in His vocabulary. As the story progresses, Jesus also *immediately* calls the demon out of the man. He wasted no time in rescuing the hurting. There was no time to lose. The devil was actively attacking the people Jesus came to save. Secondly, we see Jesus attacked His to-do list. As we follow Jesus, it can lead us to attack our to-do list as well.

Right after I started at Mt. Calvary, I attended a conference where the speaker had a similar struggle as me. He was a writer and loved his job, yet some days he found himself struggling to stay productive. To manage that, he built a system in his life to attack each day with the mission in his heart. For me, that meant I needed to assess the jobs Jesus had given me as husband, father, and pastor, and what needed to be done in each area that day. When I started my days this way, I found that I was more energized to do the tasks. I also began praying Jesus would give me the strength to do the jobs in front of me. I still practice this today. (Ok, sometimes I forget the

prayer part until later in the day.) Now with my systems in place, when a job comes across my desk that I don't want to do, I think, "I am going to procrastinate this one, so I better get it done *immediately*." So often the Holy Spirit enlivens me to do the work before me, and helps me to follow the example of Jesus by doing it *immediately*. How many people do you know that complain about the next job or task? How often is that a part of their lives? How often is it a part of yours? Let's look at Mark and learn from Jesus together.

God's Peace,

Pastor Will