

Sermon for Sunday – August 7, 2022
Luke 12:32-40

Prayer: May the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you our God our Strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

It was my grandmother who I remember saying it most often; “enjoy because it goes by so fast.”

I remember too when Isaac was born and a variety of folks dropped by the manse with food “God bless them” and with eagerness to get some baby snuggles in, who also said it: “enjoy because it goes by so fast.”

I knew both my grandmother and these generous baby people where right, and I did everything I could to “enjoy because it goes by so fast” but I don’t think I fully appreciated what they meant until now.

Isaac will be finishing his internship this Fall and in the New Year he will graduate from the University of Saskatchewan with two degrees; one in Kinesiology and one in Education. I can hardly believe it.

I feel like he started crawling a month ago, went to kindergarten a week ago, and got his driver’s license a few days ago.

The great poet Dr. Seuss writes,

How did it get so late so soon?

It's night before it's afternoon.

December is here before it's June.

My goodness how the time has flown.

How did it get so late so soon?

It gets so late so soon. We know that life is short and yet we so often spend our lives not honouring what we know.

Our experience of Covid put a new spotlight on this truth for many of us. The mass resignation is a sign of this renewed awareness of the brevity of life. Many decided that they no longer wanted to spend their time working in jobs that did not feed their soul. Many more perhaps wanted a change but couldn't because they needed to feed their families. Wherever you placed within the job market Covid provide a space to reconsider how we are using our labour.

Our experience of Covid also caused many to stop for a minute. Many realized how exhausted they were by their endless "to do" lists and responsibilities and so Covid inspired a recalculation of those activities. Some have pulled way back, and some are in a wait and see place.

We have also, over the past few years, been subject to a public narrative that insists that the world is scarier than ever. The narrative tells us we are hopelessly divided politically and we are powerless to create change and we are on a perilous course to global destruction because of climate change.

This narrative generates constant anxiety within many of us, and it is a direct result of what some are calling and "attention economy". Almost all forms of our current global media make their money by generating reaction out of us. Click a scandalous article and they make money. Tune in to hear a provocative news story and they make money. Open the Pop-Up message on your phone that looks ominous, and they make money.

Companies are vying for our attention and the making of millions of dollars convincing us that we have every reason to be afraid of living and each other.

It is a lucrative game – but it really is a game. Once you realize the game you recognize that the exact opposite public narrative is equally possible. The generous donor, the kind neighbour, the climate bill that reduces green house gases, the brilliant young person who is on the cutting edge of medical advancements. We may not be in the mess we are led to believe we are in.

Jesus, our teacher seemed to understand that what we give our attention to, influences who we are, and becomes what we create in the world. So, we must take care to pay attention to what we pay attention to. our attention

Our Gospel lesson today, calls us to pay attention to God's way and provides for each of us a sort of **pep talks for the future** with the understanding that life is short.

- Life is too short to keep waiting for a vacation, a special occasion, or a better day.
- Life is too short to worry about what people think.
- Life is too short to complain about those you don't like, look for revenge, or try to change someone's opinion about you.
- Life is too short to be bitter over things you can't change, want to go back to what was, or always do the same thing.
- Life is too short to intend to live a new life, but never get around to it.

In our gospel lesson - Jesus' disciples haven't figured out - that Life is short. They act like they have forever. They focus on the wrong things; they chase what's unimportant. They run around preoccupied with small details, forgetting why they started doing what they're doing in the first place.

But Jesus knows the time is short. He's on his way to Jerusalem to die. There's a crowd of thousands gathering, and Jesus says this to his disciples, "Don't be afraid. You've been given the Kingdom. God has given you life itself. You don't have to be frightened. Be generous. Give to the poor. Get yourselves a bank that doesn't need a bailout, a bank that can't go bankrupt, a bank you can bank on. It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is - is the place you will most want to be and end up being." It's God's treasures that are worth clinging to."

"Stay awake. Keep the lights on. Listen to this story because it contains some wisdom for you all. Some servants are busy running around doing unimportant stuff, not giving a lot of thought to the master who's gone off to get married. But when he comes back, even if it's the middle of the night, what a celebration they'll have. He'll put on an apron, give them a seat at the table and wait on them hand and foot, because he'll want them to see how happy he is. He'll want them to share his joy.

Are the disciples ready? Do they remember why they work in the master's house? Do they understand the whole point is to share in the master's joy? To live in the master's love. Or are they distracted with peripheral things that keep them from seeing what really matters?

Once we get past the Master and slave language of the ancient story, we can experience the gem at its core. **Don't be distracted by stuff that doesn't matter – look for the God stuff.**

God calls us to be watchful for the ways in which joy is breaking in around us. To stay alert to how God draws near in the mighty injustice that grabs our attention and begs for our passion. God draws near in the spiritual awakening that puts us in touch with a heart that we had forgotten we had. God draws near in the thing of beauty that reminds us that the

world is amazing and more than its trouble. Who knows what form it will take, this God power that is always drawing near us? Be watchful for it.

Wake up to whatever your life is bringing you. Wake up to the love we won't let ourselves feel, because we're afraid our hearts will break. Wake up to the job we've been given--watching for God's presence.

Jesus calls us to amazing lives. Jesus tells the disciples to seek what really matters, share the wealth, be constantly awake for God's presence. Jesus describes a life of loving one's enemies, turning one's cheek, and serving others.

- Life is short, so live every day as if it were your last, because some day you'll be right.
- Life is short, so wake up, stay alert, be prepared. Listen for the knock, answer the call, serve.
- Life is short, so do what you love when ever possible.
- Life is short, so go to church and worship, stay awake, and sing.
- Life is short, so tell the truth, take care of this day, dance.
- Life is short, so listen to the people you love, tell them how much they mean to you, visit someone else's mother in the nursing home.
- Life is short, so recognize that every day is a special occasion, use the special china, do something interesting, have some fun.
- Life is short, so forgive. Look past the faults of others just like you hope they will do for you.
- Life is short, so surround yourself with gracious people, hug your friends, care for someone new

- Life is short, so be courageous, take a chance, live so that when your life flashes before your eyes, you'll have plenty to watch.
- Life is short, so embrace the possibilities, dream, and follow those dreams.
- Life is short, so celebrate God's presence.
- Life is short, so be an evangelist, tell a friend how God's love has changed your life, be a person who talks about Jesus.

Pray hard, believe with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength. Celebrate the love of God, embrace life, do not hide away, do not be afraid, because it's later than you think, and life is short.

I am grateful this morning for Jesus's pep talk.

Hands in one three – live love 1-2-3

Live love.