

**Lent 2C**  
**St James and Good Shepherd, Laconia, NH**  
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**March 16, 2025**

### **God's Time**

Have you been following the Big Bear Eagles? Three baby eagles just hatched – there is a webcam set up, so that you can watch the eagles to your hearts content. Recently, a big snow storm passed through, and there is video of the mother eagle protecting the baby eaglets from the snow by covering them with her wings. These latest images blend right into our gospel reading today of a hen covering her chicks, to protect them from predators and weather! You can just imagine how cozy that would be, under the protective cover of a mother's wings. Jesus' stories always contained real life examples, to help people understand what he was saying.

Our gospel story today is about a warning, both *to* Jesus and *from* Jesus. The Pharisees, concerned about what is happening and seeing the danger that Jesus is in, warn him not to go to Jerusalem. Jesus replies by simply giving them His schedule – 'I will do this, then I will do that, and then I will make my way to Jerusalem'. Jesus does seem to know that he won't be killed if he avoids Jerusalem, as no prophet is killed outside of Jerusalem, but He also recognizes that only in Jerusalem will His full story be told and remembered.

Jesus does indeed continue on to Jerusalem, and though we know that it does not go well, Jesus was determined, no matter what the cost, that He must continue His journey. He was not necessarily in a hurry, but He was determined. He had a schedule of sorts, maybe even a list of things to do, then He was on his way. Jesus seemed to have an amazing ability to operate on God's time, not his own.

I think that we forget about God's time. We often rush to get our To-Do List completed, forgetting that not everything needs to be done yesterday. Some things might go even better if we wait a day... or 3. I confess that I have always been a procrastinator, but at times that can actually be good. At some point in my life I actually came to realize that procrastination might be my super power! Plowing ahead

sometimes ignores the fact that there is not just my time to consider, but God's time. Sometimes things are best left to rest, to give God time to soften the way. Taking a moment to consider what is next can allow the Spirit to enter and change our hearts.

These days, I try examine my procrastination. Why am I resistant at times to move ahead with something? What is the Spirit trying to tell me? Sometimes it is because I am unsure of what the next step should be; sometimes it is because I am fearful of the next step; sometimes it is because the Spirit is telling me that the time is not yet right. God's time has not arrived, and to plow ahead will not be successful. Instead of berating myself for not getting something done, I try to take a deep breath and search for the reason that I am delaying. I take a breath and listen for what the Spirit is trying to tell me. Sometimes, or dare I say oftentimes, we just don't see the whole picture.

Take Abram in our first reading – he wanted to know who was to be his heir, and God promised him some unbelievable things, if only he would trust and have patience. Abram had a difficult time with this, so he asked God for a sign, proof that things would indeed be as God foretold. Sometimes we too need a sign, something to encourage us that waiting is the right thing to do; that what we call procrastination is really the work of the Spirit.

Now, as in everything, we need to find our balance, our center. We need to be present and open to the work of the Spirit. We can't put everything off by saying, "Oh, it's not yet God's time." But in our culture, and in our world where everything seems to happen instantaneously, we would be good to remember to take a breath. To center ourselves. To ask ourselves, 'What are we hoping to accomplish, and is this the best way to do it?' I believe that we all need to be less reactive; to be more focused on the work of the Spirit in our lives; to not rant and rave with every new thing that comes along, but to step back and take a breath; to breathe deeply and to recognize that we believe that God is ultimately in charge. Not the president, not the congress or the courts, not republicans or democrats, but God. That in God's time, all things will be revealed.

This does not mean that we are without power, ultimately God's time *is* power, but we need to listen carefully – for when we need to act and for when we need to let go. We need to listen carefully to where God calls us, and for each of us it may be different.

I admit that am still a bit of a procrastinator, but I have learned to lean in to listening for cues, so that I can act in God's time, and not my own. This Lent, I encourage you to find some time to listen for God's time in your life, and to stay centered on the work that God calls us to.

Amen