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**His Time**  
**Had Not**  
**Yet Come**

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**Series: The Mind of Christ**

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INTO HIS LIKENESS RADIO

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# His Time Had Not Yet Come

There is nothing more frustrating to the natural man than the timing of God. He appears to have His universe running on JST (Jehovah Standard Time). JST makes a day sometimes seem like years. It appears to turn years into centuries. On occasion, it actually seems as though the sun is standing still, as though time has been suspended, as the nights go on and the days go on and nothing seems to change.

Jehovah Standard Time was interminable for the children of Israel in the wilderness. It seemed to them as though many decades had passed in just forty years. JST must have been unceasing for Moses as he tended Jethro's sheep, for Elijah by that drying brook, for Abraham as he waited and waited and waited for his promised child.

The strange part, however, is that once God decides to act, Jehovah Standard Time turns days into milliseconds. For Jehoshaphat, JST was instant victory once the people began to sing and praise<sup>1</sup>. For those believers praying for Peter, JST was so fast they couldn't believe he was already out of prison.<sup>2</sup> JST appears to be a *flexible time frame*. It seems to be the movement of God's eternal clock at the rate that will best serve His divine purposes.

If it is time for His Name to be vindicated, what would normally take years happens in but a moment of time. If God needs to change His saints rather than their circumstances, the second hand appears to freeze, and the tick-tock, tick-tock seems to stick on the tick and never tock. You know the feeling. That sickness that isn't terminal but seems interminable. That rebellious child you simply knew would turn the corner, but you never knew the corner could be decades away. That job offer that should come any day now,

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<sup>1</sup> II Chronicles 20

<sup>2</sup> Acts 12

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but the “any” day is years away. The check that’s in the mail, but the mail isn’t coming. And you cry out to God: “*What’s taking so long?*”

Softly, in love He answers: “My time has not yet come, my child, my time has not yet come.”<sup>3</sup> Rest assured that when it does, nothing will be able to thwart or stop or even slow down the hand of God’s eternal timepiece. With fierce determination, it will move instantly to the moment when the alarm sounds as God’s power sweeps into your life. But until His time has come, *nothing you do will hurry His precious Hand*. Why? Because He loves you far too much to compromise His purposes simply in order to satisfy your craving for instant answers. As so many have said, “*God may seem slow, but He’s always on time.*”

The pages of God’s calendar of life are turning quickly now as His Precious Son walks planet earth, demonstrating the life of God in man. Always He is humble. Always He is obedient to His Father. Always He has the form of a servant. Always. He has just called the church to order and given them their marching orders. Most of the congregation decided to go home for lunch and not come back. Even His own brothers are mocking Him and calling for Him to go to the Feast and throw around a few miracles so more people will come to church. He would have to do so at great risk for His own life. The people were waiting to kill Him. His brothers said, “*Go anyway.*” Jesus was not afraid. They could not kill Him until His time had come. But He did not dare go where His Father did not want Him to go, and above all, He dare not go even where His Father sent Him *before the time was right*. So He sent His brothers on to the Feast, and He appeared, seemingly from out of nowhere, about midway through the celebration.

The crowds were whispering about Him in private, but the man on the street said nothing openly for fear of the authorities. Many thought Him to be a charlatan, a make-believe hero in civilian garb, come to sidetrack the people from their hope in a Messiah. But there were two arguments against that. One was “How can He do such miracles if He is

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<sup>3</sup> John 7:6

not of God?” In other words, the things He did and the things He said all indicated that *this was no ordinary man*.

In answer to where He got His incredible wisdom, Jesus gave the same answer He had given over and over, “My wisdom is not My wisdom. It came from My Father.” So long as He stayed humble, and yielded His will to His father, He had His Father’s mind. And so do you. That is the Father’s mind: total humility, perfect servitude, faithful integrity, even in the face of adversity. They didn’t understand. We still don’t. The crowds were restless now. It had moved from the stage of rejection to open hostility. Now *they were actually seeking to take His life*. The authorities wanted Him out of the way. They had seen enough. They had heard enough. Jesus and the status quo were incompatible.

### WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME?

We resume our pilgrimage in John:

“He who speaks on his own does so to gain honor for himself, but he who works for the honor of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him.

Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?”

“You are demon possessed,” the crowd answered. “Who is trying to kill you?”  
(John 7:18-20 NIV)

Oh, the deception in the heart of man. Jesus knew that they were lying in wait to murder Him. Here we have a wonderful example of what to do when there is an adversarial relationship. You meet it head-on. Jesus didn’t mince words. He did not question their motives. He simply asked a question: “Why are you trying to kill me?” They responded with an incredible statement: They said, “You are demon possessed.” They weren’t, however, accusing Him of being demon-possessed because of His message. They accused Him of being demon-possessed because He assumed they were trying to kill Him. What a typical smoke-screen from the heart of man. Get close to the truth, and man will find a spiritual cover-up to mask the infidelity of his heart. They said, “You are demon-possessed; who is trying to kill you?”

They pasted on their faces of innocence and pretended that He was deranged to think they could even think such thoughts about such a wonderful preacher. Jesus gives them a simple illustration and then moves on to the real issue:

“Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment.

At that point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, “Isn’t this the man they are trying to kill?”

Here he is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to him. Have the authorities really concluded that he is the Christ?”  
(John 7:24-26 NIV)

### STOP JUDGING BY MERE APPEARANCES

Here was a key statement from the lips of the Master. They were wearing the robes of a judge, but they had no evidence with which to convict. They were judging, based on hearsay and rumors and prejudice. They were judging that which was eternal by that which they could see. Don’t ever do that. The Master said: “Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment.”

Jesus said,

Judge not that you be not judged. (Matthew 7:1 NKJV)

Only those qualified are allowed to wear the robes of a judge. A judge must have a clear testimony, and *have all the facts*. Man cannot do that, for

“...man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”  
(I Samuel 16:7 NKJV)

But it is God who judges: He brings one down, he exalts another.  
(Psalm 75:7 NIV)

Because we do not know the heart of man, we cannot judge the motives of man. And so often, *had we one more fact*, the verdict would be different.

They were judging Jesus, not by the compassion in His heart or even the message He spoke, but by the presence or absence of acceptance by the masses. When the crowds were in His favor, He was God’s anointed. When the people turned against Him, He was accused of being of the devil. His righteousness was determined by *popularity*, not by

*reality*. They would, therefore, reject Him because they did not understand the purpose for which He came; they only understood that the bulk of the people did not want what He came to give.

Interestingly enough, the crowds were beginning to wonder about the cowardice of the Jewish leaders at this point. They began to whisper, “Isn’t this the man they are trying to kill?” Now, mind you, the leaders had not only denied wanting to kill Jesus, they had accused Him of being demonic for even suggesting it. The people knew better, however, and they didn’t understand why, if the authorities wanted to kill Jesus, He could walk right into their midst and begin to preach, *and nobody laid a hand on Him*.

“Here He is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to Him. Have the authorities really concluded that He is the Christ?” Can you see the pressures beginning to build on the Jewish leaders? They had denied that He was the Christ. He was claiming to be the Christ. Either they had to put Him away or admit that He was who He claimed to be. And the longer they waited, the more cowardly and uncertain the authorities appeared. The people had one problem, however. They could not grasp God being born in the womb of Mary. Therefore, they began to discount the reality of His deity, based, once more, on *human reasoning*. First, they argued, He couldn’t be God because we know His parents. Now, they argued like this:

But we know where this man is from; when the Christ comes, no one will know where he is from.

Then Jesus, still teaching in the temple courts, cried out, “Yes, you know me, and you know where I am from. I am not here on my own, but he who sent me is true. You do not know him,

but I know him because I am from him and he sent me.”

At this they tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his time had not yet come.

Still, many in the crowd put their faith in him. They said, “When the Christ comes, will he do more miraculous signs than this man?”  
(John 7:27-31 NIV)

HIS TIME HAD NOT YET COME

There was a tradition among the Jews of that day that when Messiah came, He would suddenly just appear. No one would know from whence He came. This, of course, was not in keeping with Scripture, but it had become an established truth by default, and these Jews couldn't put that traditional belief together with Jesus. They knew where He came from, and they knew who His parents were. They were judging by outward appearances, rather than judging by who He appeared to be and by what He appeared to be doing.

Still others remembered Micah 5:2, which claimed Messiah would come from Bethlehem, and this man, came from Nazareth. They never bothered to inquire as to where He was born. Once again, Jesus answered their question with a spiritual reply. He said, "I am not here on my own." If there was one common theme in the ministry of Jesus (and there was), it was this one:

*I am not speaking on my own, acting on my own, or representing myself. I am only a vessel, filled and flooded with The Father. What He says, I do. Where He says, I go. When He says to, I go. Don't judge me by what you see, judge me by who lives in me. I can of mine own self do nothing.*

Over and over He said it. In a thousand ways, He said it. But always the message was the same. My Father runs my life. Apart from Him I am nothing. The message they were growing to hate had little to do with Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. It had to do with Jesus' message of lordship. Basically, they did not care where Messiah was born. They did care that Messiah be physically able to reign as King. And a man who couldn't even give a speech without His Father's permission was hardly material for royalty. The Scripture says,

At this point they tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his time had not yet come."

(John 7:30 NIV)

I wish I had a videotape of what happened next. Here was Jesus, teaching in the temple court, surrounded by an assortment of detractors and a handful of believers. Those



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who believed, did so because of His awesome miracles. Those who didn't, didn't doubt the miracles, but couldn't stomach the message, so they argued about His sudden appearing or the place of His birth.

About this time, the JIA (Jewish Intelligence Agency) sent their top-level spies to the meetings, and concluded that this guy had to go, and pronto. How it happened, we don't know, but it must have seemed like the Bay of Pigs invasion to their higher-ups. He was standing right there just a few inches from them, when they went to arrest Him. They reached out to take Him into custody, but as they went to take Him, He seemed to be made of air. As He moved, they moved, but each time they reached for Him, though He was there, He wasn't there at all.

No one laid a hand on Him. Their crack SWAT team was on the scene, closing in for the kill. But they couldn't lay a hand on Him, *because His time had not yet come*. Unless and until Jehovah is ready, *no one can lay a hand on His anointed*. When God lives in a man or woman, He controls the day, the hour, and even the second that person is called home. The angel of death has no power over those who belong to the living God. Satan pleaded with Jehovah for the right to press Job to the limits. He was allowed to take his family. He was allowed to take his wealth. He was allowed to take his health. But he could not take his life. And he cannot take yours. There are many reasons we ought not to fear death as believers. One, of course, is that it is a far better life. Still another is that when it is God's will to call His children home, if they are to remain in His will, they must go home. Living on this earth apart from God's will is a miserable existence. Living in glory when God says "come" is marvelous.

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.  
(Psalm 116:15 NIV)

Precious, indeed. Nothing that will ever happen to you or to me will be as carefully planned as our death. It is precious in God's sight. It is of primary importance. Nothing else is of higher value. So the way we die, and when we die and how we die are not incidental, accidental, or negotiable. Jesus, remaining in the Father's will, was unafraid of death. He was

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invincible. Why? His time had not yet come. Once His time came, nothing else was as important. In Matthew 26:18, Jesus said, “My appointed time is near.” He was only thirty-three years young. But age was not the issue. The plan of God was the issue. Jesus was to die at the exact point in His life the Father predetermined in eternity past. Once it was time to die, His only concern was that He die exactly as the Father chose. He did always those things that pleased the Father, even in His death.

Paul struggled more than once over whether it was better to live or to die, then concluded that it was more needful for him to live until his work was done. But finally he concluded:

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering,  
and the time of my departure is at hand.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I  
have kept the faith. (II Timothy 4:6,7 NKJV)

His time had come.

So Jesus was invincible on planet earth until His time was at hand. He quietly moved into the temple courtyard and began to teach. The authorities had vowed to take His life. They couldn't, until the heart of His Father was satisfied that the second hand on the clock of His life was at 11:59.

So no one laid a hand on Him. Not yet. The next verse is important. It adds:

Still, many in the crowd put their faith in him. They said,  
“When the Christ comes, will he do more miraculous  
signs than this man?” (John 7:31 NIV)

Their reason for trusting Him was juvenile. They couldn't imagine a more powerful miracle-worker. Many, even today, come to Christ with a very limited understanding of His finished work. They have to grow into a kind of trust that rests the weight of things eternal on His sovereignty. That's not always understood at conversion. Nevertheless, at least some of the crowd was convinced. No one could do these things unless He was God, so until someone proved otherwise, they chose to trust Him. What happened next?

The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering such things about Him. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees

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sent temple guards to arrest Him.

Jesus said, "I am with you for only a short time, and then I go to the one who sent me.

You will look for me, but you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come."

The Jews said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we cannot find him? Will he go where our people live scattered among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks?

What did he mean when he said, 'You will look for me, but you will not find me,' and 'where I am, you cannot come'?"  
(John 7:32-36 NIV)

### STREAMS OF LIVING WATER

Jesus' mini-discourse on His coming crucifixion was totally misunderstood by the crowd. Knowing the Secret Service had orders to annihilate Him, Jesus begins to address the subject of His own death. Once again, He talks in *spiritual* language. They try to apply His words to the world of the flesh. It doesn't compute. Didn't then. Won't now. In essence He said, "I'm about to leave. Where I'm going, you can't come. One thing is for sure, you'll look for me, but you won't find me."

They assumed that He was going to hide among the Gentiles and turn His ministry towards them. If He was leaving, and couldn't be followed, He must be turning His back on Israel. That was further proof to them that He wasn't Messiah. So as the Feast concluded, the people were divided and confused. It reads like this:

On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.

Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

By this He meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

On hearing His words, some of the people said, "Surely this man is the Prophet."

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Others said, "He is the Christ." Still others asked, "How can the Christ come from Galilee?"

Does not the Scripture say that the Christ will come from David's family and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?"

Thus the people were divided because of Jesus.

(John 7:37-43 NIV)

They still are divided and they shall ever be divided until the end of time. Some believe Him to be a prophet, a man who founded a religion that has changed the course of history. As such, He is to be honored. His birthday is to be a day of celebration and self-indulgence. The day of His resurrection can even be a day to celebrate, at least in a pagan sort of way.

Some believe in Him. Some accept Him as Messiah and allow His death to cover their sins. Still others argue. To them, it doesn't intellectually compute, so it can't be so. The people are still divided because of Jesus. To some, He is nothing. To others, He is everything. To a larger portion, He is a good man, but not the God-man. Pity. They, perhaps, more than any others, are to be grieved over. They recognize that He is different, but to them He is just one of the great men of history, and His church is one way to worship God. They ignore the fact that for Him to be a great man, but not the God-man, makes Him the greatest imposter ever to live.

He claimed to be God. He claimed to even be the only way to get to God. If He isn't who He claims to be, He is a fraud of unparalleled proportions. He can't be an imposter, a fraud and a hypocrite, and still be a "great man". Either He is God or He is a liar and a deceiver. Mark it. He cannot be both.

Satan's great lie then and Satan's great lie now is always the same. He says, "Honor Jesus if you must, but honor Him as a man of greatness, not as God." That is not possible. That is why many will say in that day, "Lord, I did this in your name and that in your name, aren't I one of yours?" He will have to respond, "No, my child, depart from me, I never knew you." It isn't enough to do things in Jesus' name. Salvation does not come that way. You must live not in His name, but in His power, inhabited by His deity, by His Spirit. That is the

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essence of the Christian message. That's what Jesus meant when He said:

“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.”

By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive. (John 7:38,39a NIV)

Streams of living water flowing out of you, God flowing through you—that is life. Anything less is an imitation of life. It looks religious, fools the flesh, and wins the accolades of an unbelieving world. But it won't save you. Christ in you: that is your only hope of glory.

If that has never happened to you,

“Now is the appointed time. Today is the day of salvation.” (II Corinthians 6:2 paraphrase)

Your time has come. You must make a decision whether or not you will openly reject the gift of life, pretending that Jesus is a viable part of your life because you accept the fact that He is a good man and the founder of a great religion, or you will bow before the God of Eternity and humble yourself, acknowledging that Jesus Christ is Lord, agreeing that unless you receive Him as the substitution for your sins, you will die and spend eternity separated from God. Your time will come, and you will or will not go into His presence. It is either-or. There is no middle ground. Either He is who He claimed to be, and He did what He said He would, or He is a fraud and a liar.

Trust Him today. Give Him the reins of your life and stop arguing among yourselves. Streams of living water await you. But you must receive His Spirit or you will die of thirst.

The Father was not through with Jesus. Not yet. His time had not yet come. So we will continue our walk with Him through the pages of the book of John, searching for His mind as it is displayed through His life. One thing is for sure. Until His time had come, He was invincible. So are you. When His time came, no other course but death made sense. Not for Him. Not for you. Not for me.

Stop fearing the seemingly unknown doorway of death.

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To the Christian, it is the crowning day of your life. It is the day of your graduation, the day of your homecoming, the day of your victory. And once the hand of God reaches down and beckons to you, to stay on this earth is to exit His will.

When He whispers, “Oh, Beloved, your time has come,” begin rejoicing. Until He does, keep laboring. He will not make a mistake. And dear Christian, in closing, wouldn’t this be an appropriate time to reset the timepiece of your heart to JST (Jehovah Standard Time)? What an incredible rest it gives to God’s people. When set to JST, you never fret or worry over things you cannot control. You never get frustrated or angry at God for seeming to move so slowly.

Instead, you know that *God has never been late*. You know, as well, that what God is doing in your life and other lives while the second-hand on the clock of your life seems frozen, is infinitely more valuable in the light of eternity than that circumstance that seemingly will not come to pass. And were He to do it according to man’s clock, spiritual blessings would have to be forfeited. Maybe the very thing you want to happen could not happen if God were to rush His plan. Your God is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish.<sup>4</sup> He longs to see His will come to pass. So if need be, He will make the sun stand still. If need be, He will make those long nights seem interminable, rather than hasten the sunrise before its time.

Until His time has come (the perfect timing of His perfect will), to move would be futile. Stand still. Rest. In due time, if we faint not<sup>5</sup>, the alarm of His love will go off, and we will arise in joy to the dawning of a new day in our lives. Yes, it seems like it’s taking forever. That’s because God *has forever*. And if we are His, so do we.

Re-tune the clock of your heart today to Jehovah Standard Time. Stop badgering God to run ahead of His will in order to accommodate your impatient spirit, and let Him run His universe His way. Everything will be perfect, if we just quietly wait until His time has come.

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<sup>4</sup> II Peter 3:9

<sup>5</sup> Galatians 6:9

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UNTIL HIS TIME HAS COME

Until His time has come  
You're better off to wait,  
Those hands that slowly seem to move  
Are etching out your fate.

And though they seem for ere to take  
Don't rush ahead or fret;  
God has never yet been late,  
How quickly we forget.

And were He but to hasten  
Or shorten yet the test,  
Though that might make us happy,  
Would we not miss His best?

Rest, beloved Christian,  
Until His work is done,  
It's vital that we learn to wait  
Until His time has come.

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