

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Jesus' Use Of Time

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When Jesus became flesh, the “Eternal Word” entered into the dimension of “time.” His birth, taking on flesh and blood, occurred around 4 B.C. He makes an important appearance in Jerusalem with His family at the age of 12 (*Luke 2:42*). At 30, He begins His ministry of teaching, by being first tested for 40 days in the wilderness by the devil (*Lk. 3:23, 4:1-2*). Our Lord’s public ministry can be traced on the calendar from A.D. 27 to A.D. 30, when after ministering on earth for approximately 3 years, Jesus offers Himself as a sacrificial lamb on the cross, dying at the age of 33.

Jesus came to earth to fulfill a definite, but multifaceted mission. Jesus declares He came “to do the will of Him who sent Me, and accomplish His work” (*John 4:34*). Such work centered upon Jesus coming to “seek and save that which is lost” (*Luke 19:10*). This would be accomplished by Jesus giving His “life as a ransom for many” (*Mark. 10:45*).

Jesus knew “when” he would “in time” give up His life. Jesus declares, “No one taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself” (*John 10:18*). Early on, Jesus politely let his mother know at a wedding, that “mine hour has not

come” (*John 2:4*). Jesus would likewise inform his own brothers, when they exhorted Him to make Himself known openly at the feast of Tabernacles saying, “My time is not yet come; but your time is always ready” (*John 7:6*).

As John’s readers of his Gospel, we are informed that this designated time of Jesus’ departure from this earth was not occurring on His enemies’ timetable. “...they sought therefore to take Him: and no man laid his hand, because His hour was not yet come” (*John 7:30, cf. 8:20*).

It is not until Jesus entered Jerusalem, for his final Passover, that He begins to say the time has come. When the Greeks desire to see Him, Jesus responds: “The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified” (*John 12:23*). He is not declaring that he is being glorified because the Greeks want to see him, but that through His death, He “will bear much fruit” (*John 12:24*). Praying with His disciples the day before He was crucified, Jesus says to the Father, “the hour has come...” (*John 17:1*). On the cross Jesus triumphantly declares in his last breath, “It is finished” (*John 19:30*).

We do not know the day nor the hour when we will die, but we, like Jesus, can use our

allotted time on earth “loving” and “serving” others. Jesus departed this world, having loved His own that were in the world, even unto the end (*cf. John 13:1*). We do not give up our life as a ransom to redeem man from sin. But we can join Jesus by being a servant “to all,” ministering to others in our time on earth (*cf. Mark 10:44-45*).

Jesus filled His limited time on earth with urgency. He divides time in which man works, by day distinguished from night, to teach the urgency of “working the works of God” while one has opportunity on earth (*John 9:4*). Jesus knew the confirming miraculous works of God needed now to be done while Jesus was on earth, for Jesus declares, “For when I am in the world, I am the light of the world” (*John 9:5*). While we are not the source of light, we can be luminaries of light by “holding forth the word of life” to all we can in our time on earth (*Philippians 2:15-16*).

Knowing Jesus did many more things (*John 21:25*), and many other miracles than the eight recorded by John (*John 20:30*), we should labor abundantly in the work of the Lord in our limited time on earth. Remember, such work is never vain (*I Corinthians 15:58*).