

gracepoint

A M E T H O D I S T C H U R C H

Homegroup material

2012

IT'S NOW OR NEVER

Jacqui Rivas | Sunday 8 January 2012

gracepoint

i. Introductory Discussion Questions

1. What stood out for you most about the “2012: It’s Now or Never” sermon?
2. How do you feel about 2012 right now? What are the things you are really looking forward to? What are the things you are worried about?
3. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-15. How do you think it makes a difference to our world-view and the way we live to know that God has a perfect plan and time for everything?

- Ecclesiastes 3 vs 1-15:

“To every thing there is a season, and a time for every purpose under the heavens: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pull up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. What profit does he have who works in that in which he labours? I have seen the task which God has given to the sons of men to be humbled by it. He has made everything beautiful in His time; also He has set eternity in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God makes from the beginning to the end. I know that there is no good in them, but to rejoice and to do good in his life. And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God. I know that whatever God does, it shall be forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; and God does it so that they fear before Him. That which has been is now; and that which is to be has already been; and God requires that which is past.”

ii. Forget it!

1. Before we can really be free to write our new story this year, there are some things we must leave behind. What are the burdens or regrets you are carrying that you need to forget and let go?
2. Do you think it is possible to leave regrets, burdens, failures and disappointments behind? If so, how do you think we practically go about doing this?

3. As you look to 2012, do you have any fears or worries you are carrying? Read the Scriptures below and discuss how you think, with God's help, you can overcome these fears and leave them behind.

- **Luke 12 vs 7:**

"But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Therefore do not fear, you are of more value than many sparrows."

- **Romans 8 vs 15:**

"For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption by which we cry, Abba, Father!"

- **2 Timothy 1 vs 7:**

"For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

4. Jesus came to give us true freedom (see Luke 4:18 & John 8:36). What is holding you back from living in the freedom that God gives and how can you overcome these obstacles?

iii. Grab it!

1. Read Ephesians 5 vs 15-20 below. How do you think we can live more wisely, being fully alert and awake?

- **Ephesians 5 vs 15-21:**

"Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing to make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

2. How do you think you can ensure that you understand more and more what the Lord's will is? What is one thing you need to do this year to ensure that you are more in step with the Spirit and discover more of God's character and will?
3. Throughout the Bible God continually implores us to seek Him with all of our hearts (1 Chronicles 16 vs 11, Psalm 34 vs 10, Jeremiah 29 vs 13, etc.). What do you think this really means and how can you practically do this in your own life?
4. Growth is always a painful process and in order to really grow in our spiritual lives, we will have to be willing to break out of our comfort zones and usual habits and routines. We will have to be willing to be bold and do new and different things. What is one area in which you will commit to grow in 2012?
5. We are not guaranteed any time other than today. What is one way in which you will grab the opportunities you have been given and really live the life you have today?

IV. Live it!

1. Galatians 6 vs 7-10 makes it clear that we reap what we sow. This does not nullify the saving grace of God that rescues us from our sin and bad decisions, but most of the time, God does not remove the consequences of our choices from us. What have you been sowing lately?
 - **Galatians 6 vs 7-10:**

"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore; as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of Christ."
2. We cannot do anything about the harvest we face now as a result of the things we have sowed in the past – we can simply adjust our attitude to it and determine to use everything for God. On the other hand, we can decide what we will sow this year. What are the things you hope to plant and entrust to God this year? What words, actions or dreams will you sow?

3. God intends for us to live an abundant life (John 10 vs 10). What is one thing that has held you back from really living life to the full and how will you, with God's help, overcome it this year?

V. Call to action

1. What will we do with what we have discovered in this session?
2. How will we hold each other accountable to this?