

## The Gift of 'Presence' John 17:24

1. Time is in short supply
    - a. A key resource today is time
    - b. The greatest gift anyone can give you is time
      - i. We start on time; try consistently to be on time to appointments and gatherings
    - c. People are gasping when time is mentioned
      - i. "What time is it!?"
      - ii. "Does anybody really know what time it is?"
  2. Jesus never rushed anywhere
    - a. There is no scripture that says, 'and Jesus rushed to... somewhere'
    - b. In fact, sometimes Jesus seemed a little too laid back.
      - i. You feed the 5,000
      - ii. Asleep in the boat during storm
      - iii. Lazarus was dead four days!
    - c. The price of time urgency is the loss of the gift of presence
  3. The central request of the disciples was time – follow me
    - a. Mark 14:32-37 "wait with me in the garden"
    - b. John 6:67-68 "will you leave me, too?"
    - c. John 17:24 "that they be with me"
    - d. Revelation 21:3 "And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God."
  4. Jesus knew the value of presence
    - a. He put a priority during his ministry to attend
      - i. Weddings – the first miracle at Cana
      - ii. Funerals – Tabitha did not stay dead
    - iii. Picnics – 5,000 fed with five loaves and two fish
    - iv. Dinners – tax collectors and sinners
    - v. Gone fishing!
  - b. The common element in all these was his "Being There"
    - i. Sometimes our very presence is all that is needed
    - ii. A note to parents/children – "the toys and presents will all fade away, but they'll never forget the gift of a day."
  - c. This also demonstrates the importance of the Church
    - i. Being there – together
    - ii. When God calls one He calls a bunch; Christianity is a team effort and we need to be together - present
5. Do you realize the value of 'presence'? How are you managing time?
    - a. Are you in a hurry to the point that you are missing the presence of God
      - i. Are others missing your presence
    - b. Do you remember when someone gave you the gift of their presence?
    - c. Do you have time for Jesus?