

# Teaching Letter



SEIZE THE MOMENT / TEACHING BY GAYLE CLAXTON

## SEIZE THE MOMENT

We have all heard the expression that time flies... it seems like the seconds run into minutes and then hours and before you know it the day is over! This seems to be the routine of life for some. I am sure we have all heard the expression “Carpe Diem”, to seize the day. However in this day and age where we have social media, Facebook, Twitter and so the list goes on, it seems that this is almost impossible to do. Things happen and we barely have time to process it; the world has been informed and is reacting and responding and moving on to the next happening.

Sadly this also tends to happen a lot in our Christian walk. If you are in any way like me, sometimes I want things to happen sooner rather than later! However God does not work like that. His timing is perfect and He knows what is best for us. For some people waiting is the hardest thing in life! However as we read through the scriptures Jesus was always moved with compassion towards people’s situation but He did not allow their urgency or apathy to disrupt His time frame. We read about Lazarus (**John 11**). His sisters blamed Jesus because He did not come when they wanted; and even then Jesus, filled with compassion, did what He wanted in His time.

But then we see the man who was lying crippled for 38 years at the pool (**John 5**). The moment Jesus saw him He addressed his situation instantly and a change happened. The interesting point I see here is that those who blamed Jesus for coming late were the ones that knew Him. They had a certain expectation because they had become familiar with Jesus. The man at the pool did not know who Jesus was. He even told the Pharisees when questioned about his actions on the Sabbath that he did not know this man. But he did what this man told him to do and he was healed. He simply responded to the spoken word from the mouth of Jesus and that changed his situation.



Gayle Claxton

I often wonder if in our Christian walk we have become very familiar with what we expect the Lord to do for us and when we expect it. It is a wonderful privilege to have a close relationship with the Lord, to know Him and to worship Him. This is the desire of all our hearts. But we must be careful that we don’t lose the godly respect and become familiar and with that, feel we have the right to expect the Lord to do it all as we would like. We read the end of the stories and see that Jesus did raise Lazarus because it was His plan all along to do so, as much as it was His plan to heal the man by the pool.

The fact of life is that sickness comes, people close to you die, relationships fall apart, finances fail, depression rages – this is the reality of life! We do face problems, we do go through pain and the fact is sometimes life hurts and we feel we don’t deserve it and we want to run away from it all. But just like the two situations above, we have to realise that God is with you on this path and is using it to fulfil the promise He has made to you. It is in this place that we need to pray and find in God the hidden resources. But many times we are so overcome by our situation that we can’t see God in it all. Sometimes we have to walk through the valley to be able to appreciate the mountain top. Through the hardest times of my life I have held onto the fact that I know my God is here and that He is already in

my tomorrow. Sometimes like Martha who met Jesus at her point of pain and need, we are blinded to the provision that God has already planned for us because we are so focused on our situation.

Maybe we need to come to the place to mix the reactions of Martha and Mary with that of the lame man at the pool. Come to Jesus knowing who He is because you know Him and have the simple faith of the man at the pool who responded right away to the spoken word of Jesus and his situation changed. 38 years were wiped away by a few creative words spoken by Jesus!

You see He knows who we are **John 10:14 "He is the good shepherd who knows his sheep"**.

He knows the path you're walking right now **Job 23:10 "He knows where I am going"**.

He knows what's happening in your life **Matthew 10:30**.

He knows what you need **Matthew 6:25-34**.

He loves you **Jeremiah 31:3 "with an everlasting love He loves you"**.

He cares for you **1 Peter 5:7 "cast all your cares onto Him"**.

He has a plan to help you **Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you..."**

So let's seize the moment with Jesus through prayer as we walk this journey called life!

Gayle Claxton

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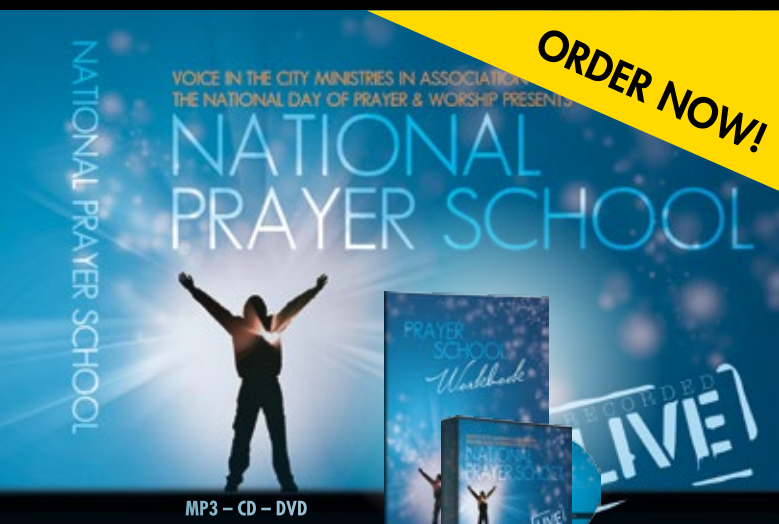


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