

“My time is not yet here.” The authorities wanted Jesus dead. The last time we had been in Jerusalem he had healed a paralyzed man on the **Sabbath** and said he had the right to do this because his heavenly Father was **“always working.”** The authorities were angry and furious. So Jesus had escaped to the far side of the Sea of Galilee. And when the Passover came, we were not able to safely return to Jerusalem because the last time we were there Jesus had **shut down** the whole temple. So we celebrated the Passover in the **wilderness**. Great crowds gathered to us, intrigued by the **signs** that Jesus had been doing. Seeing the crowds, Jesus said to us, **“Give them something to eat.”** All we could find was a little boy who was willing to share his lunch. But Jesus made that enough and everyone had their bellies **filled**. The crowds were thrilled with this sign and Jesus sensed that they wanted to grab him and force him to be their **king**. They wanted a king who would satisfy and fill their **stomachs**. But Jesus wanted nothing to do with this, so he escaped by himself to a mountain so he could **pray** to his heavenly Father.

But Jesus could not escape the **crowds** for long. When the crowds found him, Jesus said to them, **“You are only searching for me because your stomachs were filled.”** Jesus knew what motivated them. It was their **flesh** that they were truly following. Jesus said to them, **“Do not work for food that rots, but work for food that lasts.”** The crowds asked him, **“How do we work for that kind of food?”** Jesus said to them, **“Trust in the one the Creator has sent.”** They responded, **“What sign will you do so we may trust? Our fathers ate bread in the wilderness!”** Jesus had already filled their stomachs in the wilderness and yet they were still **hungry**. The sign Jesus had performed by feeding them in the wilderness had not satisfied them in a lasting way. They were feeding on signs and food that did not last. Jesus said to them, **“I am the bread of life.”** Jesus was offering himself to them—his Word, his teachings, his example. But they just wanted more bread, more food to fill their hungry bellies. So they complained and grumbled, saying, **“This is a hard teaching!”** And the crowds began to disperse. Many who had been disciples of Jesus, left him and stopped following him. Seeing the crowds of people walking away from him and no longer following him, Jesus turned and said to us, **“Do you want to leave also?”** Then Peter spoke up for us all and said, **“Lord, where would we go? You have the words of eternal life.”**

So we continued to follow Jesus even as his popularity started to fade. We stayed with Jesus in Galilee because the Judeans in the south wanted to kill him. But then the time for the Festival of Tents came near, a festival set aside for remembering our time wandering in the wilderness. Jesus’s biological brothers approached him and said, **“Go into Judea so your disciples can see your works! Don’t hide, show yourself to the world!”** On the outside, it seemed like Jesus’s brothers were on his side, wanting him to succeed. But the truth was that Jesus’s brothers did **not trust** him. They wanted him to go down to Judea for the festival because they knew the authorities were looking for Jesus and would **kill** him when they found him **or** that Jesus would **prove** that he was the Messiah by overcoming those authorities. Jesus’s brothers wanted to be rid of the problems that Jesus was causing their family and they wanted that to happen **immediately**. But Jesus refused to listen to his brothers and said, **“My time is not yet here. But your time is always here.”** Jesus knew that they were being **impatient**, he knew what was motivating them on the inside. Jesus, however, refused to let their impatience get to him, and instead continued to **patiently wait** on his Father’s timing. Jesus said to them, **“The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I reveal that the world’s works are evil.”** Jesus was revealing that **impatience** and the **desire for signs** was evil. Then Jesus told his brothers, **“You go ahead without me. My time is not yet here.”**

But after Jesus’s brothers left, Jesus decided to secretly go to the festival. When we got to Jerusalem we found that the authorities were indeed **hunting** for Jesus so they could arrest and kill him. They were expecting him to come to the festival and were upset he was not there. And we heard the crowds that were gathered for the festival **arguing** over Jesus. Some were on his side, saying, **“He is a good man”** but others were saying, **“He is misleading the people!”** But regardless of their opinion, everyone was **afraid** to speak openly about Jesus because they were scared of the Judean authorities. Then half way through the weeklong festival, Jesus decided to come out of hiding. Jesus stood openly in the middle of the temple and began teaching—everyone was **shocked**, including the authorities who had been hunting him. Jesus said to them, **“I do not teach on my own! If anyone is willing to do the Creator’s will, then he will know that my teaching is from the Creator! The one who comes on his own, seeks his own glory. But the one who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is righteous!”** Jesus did not care about the glory and **opinions** of the crowds or the authorities. Jesus only wanted to please his heavenly Father. He had one job, one purpose, and one food—to do the **will** of the Creator who sent him.

Jesus then asked the crowd, **“Why are you seeking to kill me?”** The crowd answered, **“You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?”** Everyone knew that the authorities wanted Jesus to be arrested and killed for healing on the Sabbath, but the crowds couldn’t help but lie. Jesus answered them, **“You will circumcise a man on the Sabbath to keep the Law of Moses. So why are you angry at me because I healed a man on the Sabbath? Do not judge by what you see! Instead, judge with righteousness!”** There Jesus stood in the middle of the temple, confronting the very authorities that wanted him **dead**. And everyone was shocked that no one was arresting Jesus. The authorities spoke up and commanded their soldiers to arrest Jesus, but not a single one was brave enough to touch Jesus. The authorities were angry and said to their soldiers, **“Why did you not arrest him?!”** The soldiers answered, **“We have never heard a man speak in this way!”** They thought they were in **control**, they thought they had **power**, but no matter what the authorities did, they could not arrest Jesus because **“his time had not yet come.”**

“My time is not yet here.” We were shocked that even though the authorities wanted Jesus arrested and wanted him dead, they were **powerless**. We were seeing that **nothing** could happen until the Creator was ready. That was why Jesus was so bold and courageous. That was why Jesus was not afraid. That was why Jesus was so patient. **“My time is not yet here.”** Jesus was **patient** because he wasn’t concerned about his **own** will, he was only concerned about his **Father’s** will. The world was in a hurry and anxious all around Jesus, scraping and clawing to be in control and make things happen the way they wanted—but Jesus walked a different path, seeking only his Father’s will and timing. Jesus revealed that the world’s **impatience** was evil, revealed that the world’s constant **hurrying** was evil. Jesus didn’t make himself king when the crowds wanted it—instead he waited. **“My time is not yet here.”** Jesus didn’t go to Jerusalem and reveal himself to the world when his family wanted it—instead he waited. **“My time is not yet here.”** Jesus didn’t let the pressures of the authorities move him from his path—instead he waited. **“My time is not yet here.”** Jesus waited and did not give in to the pressures of the crowds and authorities, or even his own family. What Jesus was doing was not for himself, for the crowds, for the authorities, or for his earthly family, everything Jesus did was **completely** and **totally** for his heavenly Father.

“My time is not yet here.” Are you in a hurry? Are you in a battle to control and direct the circumstances of your life? Slow down and breathe. Stop giving in to the pressures of the **crowds**. Stop following the desires of your **family**. Stop forcing your **own will** on life. Stop seeking your own glory. Stop judging by what you see. Stop expecting the Creator to work on your timeline. Feed on the **“bread of life”** that does not rot, feed on the Word and example of Jesus. Say with Jesus, **“My time is not yet here.”** Wait patiently on the Creator, only his timing is good. **Amen.**