

February 28, 2024

TURN! TURN! TURN!

...a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, Ecclesiastics 3:7 (NIV)

My generation grew up with Folk Music and Rock 'n' Roll, experiencing all the great lyrics and melodies. One remarkable song was inspired by the Bible verses of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. It was written and performed by Pete Seeger, and later covered by many popular artists. The song gained popularity when “The Byrds” sang it with a Folk-Rock twist in the '60s. The song eloquently describes the various cycles of life's journey experiences. Each verse presents opposites, contrasting directions from North to South, tears to mending, and silence to shouting.

Today, we will focus on the two parts of verse 7.

Part one: An example of tearing and mending occurs at a funeral, symbolizing the loss of a loved one that leads to the building of stronger family bonds. Even during Barb's journey with cancer a few years ago, we witnessed the Lord sending numerous wonderful people—doctors, nurses, church family, friends, and even strangers—to support us during challenging times. Now, we find ourselves in a position to offer support to others on their cancer journeys at the Wellness House in Hinsdale.

Part two: There is a balance between silence and speech, emphasizing the importance of listening before speaking out. Our general instinct is to speak first, but wisdom lies in following the examples of Biblical leaders like Nehemiah, Timothy, and Paul, who paused to pray before acting or speaking. In today's age of instant communication through social media, everyone is eager to share their opinions and hit the send button without thinking. A common example is news outlets, often presenting snippets of a story mixed with opinions and presenting it as news.

Closing Prayer: Lord, grant us the wisdom in Ecclesiastes 3 to be better servants for and with You. Amen

Jim Paulsen