

John 7:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is always ready.

Analysis

Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is always ready. Jesus corrects His brothers' counsel by emphasizing divine timing. 'My time' (ho kairos ho emos) refers to His appointed hour for public revelation, suffering, and glorification. 'Not yet come' (oupō parestin) indicates the time exists but hasn't arrived—God has appointed the schedule. The contrast 'but your time is always ready' (ho de kairos ho humeteros pantote estin hetoimos) highlights difference between Jesus and ordinary humans. The brothers can go to Jerusalem anytime without divine consultation because they aren't fulfilling redemptive history's climax. Jesus operates on the Father's timetable for salvation history. Reformed theology emphasizes God's sovereignty over time—history unfolds according to divine decree, and Christ's work occurred at the precise appointed moment (Galatians 4:4: 'when the fulness of the time was come').

Historical Context

The concept of Christ's 'hour' or 'time' (hora, kairos) threads through John's Gospel. Before the hour, Jesus acts with sovereign freedom (2:4, 7:6, 7:8, 7:30, 8:20). When the hour arrives, He moves decisively toward the cross (12:23, 13:1, 17:1). This demonstrates Jesus's control even when facing death—He wasn't victim but victor, laying down His life voluntarily at the appointed time (10:18). First-century Jews expected Messiah to appear suddenly, but God's timing often confounds human expectations. The early church learned to trust God's timing—persecution, delays in Christ's return, setbacks in ministry all occur within God's

sovereign schedule. Church history proves God's perfect timing—the gospel spread when Roman roads, common Greek language, Jewish diaspora, and religious hunger converged.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does understanding God's sovereign timing affect our impatience with circumstances?
2. What is the significance of Jesus moving toward the cross at precisely the appointed hour?
3. How should awareness of God's perfect timing shape our planning and decision-making?

Interlinear Text

λέγει	οὖν	αὐτοῖς	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	ὁ	καιρὸς	ὁ	ἐμὸς
said	Then	unto them	G3588	Jesus	G3588	time	G3588	My
G3004	G3767	G846		G2424		G2540		G1699
οὕπω	πάρεστιν	ὁ	δὲ	καιρὸς	ὁ	ὑμέτερος	πάντοτε	
not yet	come	G3588	but	time	G3588	your	alway	
G3768	G3918		G1161	G2540		G5212	G3842	
ἐστιν	ἔτοιμος							
is	ready							
G2076	G2092							

Additional Cross-References

John 7:8 (Parallel theme): Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast; for my time is not yet full come.

John 2:4 (References Jesus): Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

John 7:30 (Parallel theme): Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come.

John 17:1 (References Jesus): These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

John 13:1 (References Jesus): Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

John 8:20 (References Jesus): These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come.

Matthew 26:18 (Parallel theme): And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at thy house with my disciples.

Acts 1:7 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

Psalms 102:13 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come.