



# STRENGTH TO STAND

## Week 2: Dealing with Evil Days

Ephesians 5:15-16

*“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.”*

There are a lot of myths and legends about the creation of day and night. Some cultures believe that day and night are two separate deities. They worship the sun and moon as though either celestial body has any control over where it sits in the cosmos. Other ancient, and even some modern, religions believe in gods or goddesses that brought the sun into the sky every morning and feared that if they did not sacrifice to this deity, the days would cease to exist.

However, the Bible tells us this: God created the heavens and the Earth and brought forth night and day in His creation. Since then, day and night have existed together, and mankind has enjoyed what God deemed to be good in Genesis 1:3. If we believe that God deemed His creation of night and day good, why does Paul tell the Ephesians to make use of their time *“because the days are evil”*? Surely the daytime itself isn’t evil!

Despite the seeming disunity between the two verses, a closer examination of how the Bible uses the idea of *chronos* and *kairos* can explain Paul’s warning to the Ephesians. When Paul was writing to Christians in the first century A.D., he was witness to horrible persecutions. If you have read through the gospels, you will see that the disciples and Pharisees alike were surprised when the Messiah did not come as a militant King bent on conquering the surrounding areas, but instead built His Kingdom by death on a cross. Christians, especially formerly Jewish believers, were still struggling to understand the world around them. Wasn’t the Messiah supposed to usher in peace? Couldn’t God put an end to the persecution?

The short answer is yes, Jesus has given us peace and will put an end to persecution. But we are living somewhere in between and in the midst of both of those realities. When Paul refers to the days being evil, he is speaking in *kairos* time. He is telling the Ephesians, and us, that Christians are living in a “time of evil” that is ruled by those who chase after their own ambitions and desires. Because of that, we will face persecution, and we should watch our steps as we live out a counter cultural lifestyle.

## Questions to Consider

- Talk about the difference between a bad day and a bad season. What makes a season of time better or worse?
- Why can Christians remain hopeful during evil days?
- How can we redeem the Kairos (season of time) when we experience difficult Chronos time? For example, how can we win people for Christ during our time as high schoolers, even during bad moments?

## A Prayer for Your Students

As a group, read Psalm 23 aloud.

<sup>1</sup> *The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.*

<sup>2</sup> *He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters,*

<sup>3</sup> *he refreshes my soul.*

*He guides me along the right paths  
for his name's sake.*

<sup>4</sup> *Even though I walk  
through the darkest valley,  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.*

<sup>5</sup> *You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.*

<sup>6</sup> *Surely your goodness and love will follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD  
forever."*

Discuss the differences between *kairos* and *chronos* in this Psalm. Emphasize the hope in verse 6, that goodness and love will follow us all the days of our life, even in the midst of 'evil days'. This is the hope that Christians have in Christ.

As you close in prayer, think back to creation. God not only created chronos time, but he has also appointed kairos times in our life. Pray for wisdom in how each of you walk, talk and lead. The days may be evil, but the Lord refreshes our soul and guides us along the right path.

### **Student Take Away**

This week your parable is Luke 13:18-21:

*"Then Jesus asked, 'What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches.' Again he asked, 'What shall I compare the kingdom of God to? It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.'"*

Your challenge is to read this parable each day. At the end of the day, reflect on how this parable changed your understanding of the events that happened. If you need help, ask these three questions:

How does this parable change the way I understand people?

What do I learn about God in this parable?

Are there any questions that this parable raises?