

CROSSPOINT

S C R I P T S E R V I C E

A Time For Everything

Synopsis: This adapted Scripture reading makes its subtle point just by restructuring the familiar Ecclesiastes reading to show the positive and negative sides of life separately, and then in their natural integration.

Themes: Balance, Wisdom, Time, Perspective, Maturity.

Time requirements: 5 minutes

Characters:

- 1- Positive and optimistic
- 2- Grieved, wounded, slightly cynical.

Props: These lines can be done memorized, or Readers Theater style with scripts in script folders. Nothing else is necessary.



Author's Note:

Scene opens on both actors facing the audience. 1 starts while 2 listens skeptically, then vice versa.

Blocking: Keep the actors on separate sides of the stage to contract their perspectives. Start them far apart and then bring them gradually closer together at the end.

- 1: There is a time for everything
- 2: And a season for every activity under heaven:

- 1: (*upbeat and with energy*)
 - A time to be born and a time to plant
 - A time to heal and a time to build
 - A time to laugh and a time to dance
 - A time to gather stones and a time to embrace
 - A time to search and a time to keep
 - A time to mend and a time to speak
 - A time to love and a time for peace.

- 1: There is a time for everything
- 2: And a season for every activity under heaven:
 - (*slow and plodding, with pain*)
 - A time to die and a time to uproot
 - A time to kill and a time to tear down
 - A time to weep and a time to mourn
 - A time to scatter stones and a time not to embrace



1 minute mark

Author's Note: Here they both study each other curiously before trying again; this time more thoughtfully. As they react to each other the effect is neither overly happy nor sad. They bring balance to each other.

Blocking: They move closer together.



2 minute mark

A time to give up and a time to throw away
 A time to tear down and a time to be silent
 A time to hate and time for war.

1: There is a time for everything
 2: And a season for every activity under heaven:

1: A time to be born
 2: And a time to die

1: A time to plant
 2: And a time to uproot,
 A time to kill

1: And a time to heal

2: A time to tear down

1: And a time to build

2: A time to weep

1: And a time to laugh

2: A time to mourn

1: And a time to dance

2: A time to scatter stones

1: And a time to gather them
 A time to embrace

2: And a time to refrain

1: A time to search

2: And a time to give up,

1: A time to keep

2: And a time to throw away

2: A time to tear

1: And a time to mend

2: A time to be silent

1: And a time to speak

A time to love

2: And a time to hate

A time for war

1: And a time for peace

There is a time for everything,

2: And a season for every activity under heaven

Lights Out

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Devotional Thought: Hebrew wisdom literature has a sort of high/low balance to it where the extremes of life are not scaled down to a bland average, but celebrated in their opposites. In other words happiness and sadness aren't supposed to blend into a boring neutrality, devoid of emotion. It's more like the heights and the depths need each other for perspective. We see that here in this famous reading from Ecclesiastes. God brings seasons into our lives at his discretion and we can welcome, even savor, both the good and the bad.

Scripture Link: Though this is taken from Ecclesiastes 3, it's in keeping with the entire tone of the book which tends to swing from wild optimism and celebration to deep despair. It's the Hebrew way.



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