

Sermon Notes for 1-5-2025

“If I Could Just Have Had Five More Minutes

Rev. Dr. Vance Mortensen, Saranac Lake NY

Sermon Outline: “If I Could Just Have Had Five More Minutes”

Introduction

- Open with the shared experience of grief and longing.
- Discuss the sentiment behind “If I could just have had five more minutes.”
- Highlight the transition from 2024 to 2025 as a time of reflection, grief, and hope.
- Thesis: From a Biblical perspective, God offers us a path to healing, new beginnings, and eternal hope.

I. The Reality of Grief and Loss

- Biblical Reference: Ecclesiastes 3:1-4 – “A time to weep and a time to laugh...”
- Grief is a natural part of life, and the Bible acknowledges our sorrow.
- Discuss examples of grief in Scripture (e.g., David mourning for his son).
- Application: Acknowledge and validate the pain of the congregation.

II. The Longing for What Was Lost

- Biblical Reference: John 11:21-25 – Martha’s lament to Jesus about Lazarus.
- Explore the human desire for more time and how Jesus addresses this longing with eternal promises.
- Biblical Reference: Isaiah 43:18-19 – God’s call to focus on the new thing He is doing.
- Discuss the tension between longing for the past and embracing God’s future.

III. Finding Hope in God’s Promises

- Biblical Reference: Philippians 3:13-14 – “Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead.”
- Explain how God equips us to move forward, even in the face of loss.
- Biblical Reference: Lamentations 3:22-23 – God’s mercies are new every morning.
- Highlight God’s faithfulness and His gift of renewal.

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IV. Embracing New Beginnings

- Biblical Reference: 2 Corinthians 5:17 – “If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come...”
- Emphasize the transformative power of faith in Christ.
- Biblical Reference: Revelation 21:4-5 – God’s promise to make all things new.
- Discuss the ultimate hope of eternal life where grief and sorrow will cease.

V. Living in God’s Present Grace

- Practical Applications:
 - Seek healing through prayer, community, and Scripture.
 - Focus on gratitude for the time we’ve had and the opportunities before us.
 - Trust in God’s sovereignty and His ability to bring beauty from ashes.

Conclusion

- Revisit the theme of “If I could just have had five more minutes.”
- Remind the congregation of God’s promises: new beginnings, eternal life, and unending hope.
- Close with encouragement to step into 2025 with faith and trust in God’s redemptive power.