

# MARK MY WORDS Lesson 1 – Maximizing the God Moments

**Mark 1:15**

**9.23.07**

*Mark 1:15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”*

Not only is this Jesus’ introduction to ministry and answer to personal salvation; I believe it speaks to every moment that we have our eyes open to a “God Moment”

## **4 Important Stages in Maximizing the God Moments (from Mark 1:15)**

### **IDENTIFY, ACKNOWLEDGE, ADJUST, ACT**

#### **1. IDENTIFY** - Realize the time is right and God is wanting to get our attention

God is the I AM – always in the present – and he wants us to be very aware of the present as an opportunity to encounter Him

*2 Corinthians 6:2 “... behold, now is “the acceptable time,” behold, now is “the day of salvation”*

*Ecclesiastes 3:1 There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven.*

*Ephesians 5:16 making the most (KJV: “redeeming”) the time, because the days are evil “fulfilled” = “completed” or:” the time is now”*

### **IDENTIFY THE GOD MOMENT**

Maybe a time of significant circumstance

Maybe a time of obvious opportunity

Maybe a time of personal “funk”

#### **2. ACKNOWLEDGE** - Admit that God wants to get your attention and “move” you

*Revelation 3:20 “Behold, I stand at the door and knock...”*

*Isaiah 55:6 Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near.*

*Psalms 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*

*Romans 7:24b, 25a Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Romans 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.*

### **ACKNOWLEDGE GOD’S PRESENCE AND LORDSHIP**

*1. Stop 2. Look 3. Listen*

#### **3. ADJUST** - Change your attitude, direction, business, focus to match His purposes

Repent = “be converted”

*Matthew 3:2 Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

*Isaiah 6:5 Then I said “woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.”*

*Romans 12:2 “be transformed by the renewing of your mind”*

*Ephesians 4:23... be renewed in the spirit of your mind*

### **ADJUST YOUR COURSE**

#### **1. Confession 2. Forgiveness 3. Cleansing**

*1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

#### **4. ACT - Obey His leading and represent His good news in that time and place**

*Matthew 5:14 You are the light of the world, a city set on a hill cannot be hidden.*

*Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men...*

*John 3:36 He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.*

#### **Old Testament Example – Moses at the Burning Bush (Exodus 3)**

1. Moses was in a “shepherding mode” – but he identified the time of a “God moment” when he said, “I must turn aside now, and see this marvelous sight” (3:2)
2. Moses acknowledged the presence of “I AM”: “Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God” (3:6)
3. Moses had excuses of his inadequacy, but in God’s presence He repented
4. Moses believed God and acted on His leading

#### **A personal example (3 days ago)**

1. Mark Lien sick, possibly unto death. I had received a call from his wife, Sharon. I identified this as a God moment.
2. When I tried calling and could not get through, I determined that I would continue trying, but as I got in my car and looked up the street to their house God spoke to me to go now.
3. Immediate “excuses” came to mind –primarily that I was busy this day preparing for this sermon and they might not want visitors – I needed to “repent”

4. I went to the door, was received warmly by Sharon and was ushered in the see Mark we were also glad to see me. We shared good words of the hope of God in death and prayed together. It was obviously a “God moment”

#### **A personal example (on vacation)**

1. I was in a “personal funk” – things were not going as I had hoped they would and I was walking when the wind blew strongly, and I identified the moment as God trying to get my attention – he did.
2. I acknowledged Him and took a moment to worship his presence and power in the wind – a symbol of His Holy Spirit
3. I repented of my attitude and “funk” and determined to return to Joanne with a different attitude. I apologized to her for my attitude and told her of my desire to make the best of the situation.
4. The rest of the evening had a whole different feel and atmosphere because of my believing that God could change me and my obedience to His direction.

**MARK JESUS’ WORDS** – his opening words in the gospel of Mark:

***Mark 1:15*** and saying, “*The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.*”

4 Important Stages in Maximizing the God Moments

**IDENTIFY, ACKNOWLEDGE, ADJUST, ACT**

**This is your “formula” for personal salvation**

**This is also your “formula” for MAXIMIZING THE GOD MOMENTS**