

Michael's Musings March 11, 2018

"A Rant and a Blessing"



OK - so first - here's my little rant! I really dislike the move to Daylight Savings Time! Presumably, it is scheduled for an early Sunday morning because most of the country can simply absorb the "lost hour of sleep" by, well, sleeping in. But for the last fifteen years, Daylight Savings Time Sunday has been a struggle for me. It's darker in the morning, and it takes me a while to embrace the blessing of the longer evenings.

I know, come June and July, I will appreciate being able to sit on the patio later; I will value sailing until a late 9pm+ sunset; I will give thanks for the blessing. But in March, I feel the need to wallow in my lament. Do you share my lament? Or, perhaps, you relish the change. Granted, there's nothing we can do about it (other than move to Saskatchewan).

But whatever our feelings about Daylight Savings Time may be, it reminds us of the preciousness of time itself. When I was 20 - with the prospect of most of life still awaiting - time seemed almost limitless. Now, at 40 - with the prospect that at least half of life has passed by - time seems more precious. I am told by others that, at 60, 70, 80 and beyond, time seems very limited.

Regardless of our age or our stage, all of us share the gift of time. Do we embrace the gift through our values, our relationships and our choices? Or do we use time itself to lament the scarcity of life's most precious commodity?

We are mid-way through our Lenten journey. The days are lengthening. Easter is coming. The first verse of the opening hymn we will sing this coming Sunday - written by a Roman Catholic monk (perhaps more in touch with time and seasons than most of us are) - speaks beautifully of this time in which we find ourselves:

As the sun with longer journey melts the winter's snow and ice,
with its slowly growing radiance warms the seed beneath the earth,
may the sun of Christ's uprising gently bring our hearts to life. (John Patrick Earls, 1981)

Time is gift. Time is blessing. Because, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die." (Ecclesiastes 3: 1-2)

Oh - and don't forget to (even if reluctantly) move your clocks forward early this coming Sunday morning. At 10.30am - Daylight Savings Time - God-willing, I'll be in worship to welcome you with a smile - even if I'm feeling a bit sleep deprived. And if you forget, then still come for coffee at 11.30am. Because lament and celebration can co-exist.

-Michael Brooks