

JINDAL CALLS FOR SEIZING THE MOMENT was the headline in today's Times Picayune newspaper. The statement "seizing the moment" was a summarization of Governor Bobby Jindal's speech, as he opened a legislative session that is expected to focus on making controversial cuts to health care, education, and other programs. In his speech Jindal was urging lawmakers to turn a downward spiral in state revenue into a positive transformation of government. In one of his key statements, the Governor says: "This will be a session dominated by debates about the budget and how to do more with less, but at the same time we must do more to move our state forward. We don't have a moment to spare to help our state reach its full potential."

I had been selected to open the joint meeting of the Louisiana House and Senate with comments and prayer, so I was in attendance to hear Governor Jindal's speech to our State Legislature. The stance that Governor Jindal took in regards to "seizing the opportunity" of the state financial crisis to reform government was not new to me. Back in November of 2008 I had attended a meeting with the Governor and some other pastors, and at that time he had informed us that our state was facing a significant revenue shortfall in the coming fiscal year. The Governor didn't appear to be anxious, however, as he shared this sobering news with us. He communicated to us that he saw this "crisis" as an opportunity for our state to reform the way that we do government, and he was confident that in the long run the "revamping" of our government would be a great thing for the people of Louisiana. He also said that he was trusting God to give he and his staff supernatural wisdom and direction in this time of crisis and challenge.

"Seizing the moment" is what we all need to be doing in every arena of our lives. Whether it is with regards to our family, finances, education, career, spiritual growth or church, we all need to be looking for opportunities to "reform" our ambitions, attitudes and activities and move our lives forward by the direction, power and provision of the Lord. In reference to the Governor's speech I would say that "we don't have a moment to spare to help ourselves, our family members, our church and our city and region reach our and their full potential."

So, what would "seizing the moment" look like for you in the crucial arenas of life? What could "seizing the moment" possibly involve with regards to your family? Could it be you need to prioritize more time for deepening your relationship with your family, affirming and encouraging your family members or talking with family members about their relationship with the Lord?

What could "seizing the moment" possibly involve with regards to your finances? Could it be you need to do a personal study of Biblical money management, or even get connected to one of our Crown Financial Groups at Celebration Church?

What could "seizing the moment" mean as you reflect on your spiritual growth? Could it be that you need to take some "next steps" in your spiritual growth? Your "next step" perhaps could be to attend an I WANT TO KNOW event (such as the ones being hosted at all 3 Celebration campuses this coming Sunday). Your "next steps" could be connecting with a *Life Group*, getting baptized, completing the Celebration *Belong Track*, communicating to your *Life Group* leader your interest in being trained for leadership, or offering to serve in some ministry.

In all of our life, we've got to be constantly "seizing the moment" so we can become our very best and accomplish all the Lord wants us to accomplish. Near the end of his speech, Governor Jindal said: "Louisiana will never reach its fullest potential until every Louisianian reaches their

fullest potential.” I would say that neither your family, your city and region, your church or your state will reach their fullest potential until everyone reading this *Connecting Point* “seizes the moment.” Let’s all pray and plan to “seize the moment” in the coming days.

One moment you will definitely want to “seize” is our upcoming *CELEBRATION AT CITY PARK* event this coming Friday (May 1), from 7 to 10 pm. Held near the famed Botanical Gardens of New Orleans City Park, the *CELEBRATION AT CITY PARK* event will include unlimited rides on the carousel and other rides as well as access to Story Book Land. Concession stands will also be open. It will be a great time for meeting and fellowshiping with other Celebration members and their friends. I also want to encourage you to not only plan to attend the event, but to bring friends and family members with you (so they can see that genuine Christians can have fun too). The cost is only \$10/person, and the proceeds will go towards helping our Crescent City Christian School ministry. For information about how to acquire the “special wristbands” ahead of time, contact your *Life Group* leader, or go online to www.celebrationchurch.org. There will also be an opportunity to purchase tickets at the gate.

There are two other “seize the moment” opportunities available for you this coming weekend through Celebration’s ministry. First, we will be hosting the *New Orleans Purpose Driven Church Conference* on Saturday, May 2, in our Transcontinental Worship Center (beginning at 8:30 am). This *Purpose Driven Church Conference* will provide ministers and church leaders with insight and training about how to reach people in today’s world with the “good news” of Jesus, and then assimilate them, disciple them, equip them to be leaders, and empower them to be “difference-makers” in our culture and world. You can register for the *New Orleans Purpose Driven Conference* by calling 1.800.723.3532, or by going online to www.purposedrivenchurch.com/neworleans. There are a limited number of discounted tickets for Celebration members that can be obtained when they register through their Community Pastor. Registrations will also be received at the door.

The second “seize the moment” opportunity for this weekend is our weekend worship services at our Celebration campuses. This weekend we will be concluding the *GOOD NEW(S)* message series, and we will be learning about finding *New Purpose* for our lives. Be sure to join us, and plan to bring family members and friends with you who need to find life-changing and life-enhancing purpose for their lives.

Pastor Dennis

P.S. Vicki and I had a great time worshipping this past Sunday with our St. Bernard Parish congregation. What a wonderful group of people they are! The Lord is doing a mighty work in and through our St. Bernard Congregation, under the leadership of Campus Pastor Craig Ratliff. If you have friends, family members or co-workers who live in St. Bernard Parish, New Orleans East, Slidell, or the 9th Ward of New Orleans, bring them with you to one of our St. Bernard worship services in the near future (Sundays @ 10 am, 7500 W. Judge Perez Drive in Arabi).