

A. WHY WE WAIT

- Waiting is an inevitable part of human existence which is marked by time and space. "In the beginning" God made night and day and set the rhythm of life on this planet.
- In the Garden, Adam and Eve looked to God in childlike dependence, waiting on Him to supply their every need. But that perfect relationship was lost at the Fall.
- Now we continue to wait, but it goes against the grain of our independent flesh. We struggle because we resist being consistently connected with God and His provision.
- We pray to experience "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" often without realizing that waiting upon Him is how we connect with Him and His will. (Mt 6:10) +
- Jesus lived in trusting dependence upon the Father, waiting as a human for God's supernatural direction and power. (Jn 5:19) He is our model for waiting on God! (WOG)
- Through Jesus' example and the promises found in God's Word, we too can experience life as God intended even as we wait: Psalms 27:13-14 NAS--I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.¹⁴ Wait for the LORD; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the LORD.
- We don't like to wait. But we find in our Scripture today, and throughout the Bible, that God asks us to wait on Him and promises His goodness when we do.
- Insights:

B. WHY WAITING IS HARD

- Our relationship with time is complicated! We view time as an adversary: "I've got to beat the clock," "I'm up against a deadline" or "I'm in a race with time."
- Also, time is a limited commodity and it seems there's never enough of it. Waiting feels like a roadblock between us and the things we want and need.
- Waiting is further complicated by the condition of our hearts and minds. Here are a few issues that impact our call to wait and what God has to say to us about them:
 - 1) The Unknown
 - Waiting carries the potential for an unexpected outcome. We are hard-wired to fear the unfamiliar, so it's natural for us to feel shaky when the future is unknown.
 - But God promises that we are safe with Him if that is where He calls us: Is 42:16 - "I will lead the blind by a way they do not know, in paths they do not know I will guide them. I will make darkness into light before them and rugged places into plains. These are the things I will do, and I will not leave them undone."
 - 2) Impatience
 - Our fast-paced culture has trained us to expect fewer delays and has created a collective mindset that waiting is bad. The ability to wait well is a rare thing.

- It's wise to compare the consequences of impatience to those of waiting on God: Is 30:14-15, 18 NIV -- This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it ¹⁶You said, 'No, we will flee on horses.' Therefore, you will flee! You said, 'We will ride off on swift horses.' Therefore, your pursuers will be swift! ... ¹⁸Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore, he will rise up to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!

3) Trust Issues

- We can only trust someone to the degree that we know them. As we grow in knowing God more personally and experientially, our trust in waiting will grow.
- We can count on the Lord to reveal His goodness to us every single day in this life and the next: Ps 23:6 – Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

• LISTENING EXERCISE:

Name the top 2 or 3 places in your life where you are currently waiting on God:

Which of the issues we discussed is most impacting your experience of waiting on God? (Fear of the unknown, Impatience, or Trust issues)

Now, look back at the promise that goes with that issue. Will you take hold of that promise and set your heart and mind on believing God instead?

Lord, by faith we stand on the promise that "we will see Your goodness" even as we wait. We ask You to remind us of your promise every time we begin to feel the struggle of waiting on You in the circumstances near to our hearts.

• Insights:

C. WHY NOT WAIT WELL

- Our natural aversion to waiting is just the beginning of why we're not waiting on God.
- Consider all the desires and needs we're hoping to see met. We can become so focused on them that we begin to take our eyes off Jesus and the promises of God.
- Our energy goes into our efforts to understand and in rehearsing possible scenarios and solutions. The result is distraction, doubt, frustration and sometime despair.
- David wrote that waiting in God's presence is where we will find what we're lacking so that we overcome these negative emotions: Ps 27:14 KJV -- Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.
- Notice that it is God Himself who supplies the courage and strength that we lack. In His refreshing presence we are enabled to wait and trust Him for the best outcome.
- God presents us with a choice in every place that life seems to be taking too long:
 - 1) Follow our human nature's message to get busy and take care of the problem ourselves (based on the lie that we have the power and wisdom to do so).
 - 2) Wait upon the Lord and see His goodness in the waiting as well as in the outcome. Receive the truth that He will provide for our every need. (Ps 34:10, Phil 4:19)
- Instead of being "bound by time," may we look to God each day. Let's wait upon Him to give us the truth that frees, a proper perspective on our todays and tomorrows.
- Let's make this prayer of Moses a regular part of our dialogue with God as we learn to wait with the focus of knowing Him and His ways: Ps 90:12ff NAS -- So teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom. ¹³ Do return, O LORD; how long *will it be?* And be sorry for Your servants.
¹⁴ O satisfy us in the morning with Your lovingkindness, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. ¹⁵ Make us glad according to the days You have afflicted us, *and* the years we have seen evil.
¹⁶ Let Your work appear to Your servants and Your majesty to their children. ¹⁷ Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us; and confirm for us the work of our hands; yes, confirm the work of our hands.
- Insights:

