

Are We Waiting for Jesus

Introduction:

- I. Waiting is an important concept in Scripture.
 - A. We as Christians should have an understanding of what it entails.
 - B. And we should be doing it, since it is to be a part of who we are.
 - C. **I Th 1:8ff** *“For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. ⁹ For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come.”*
- II. I’ve spent a great deal of time in doctors’ and dentists’ waiting rooms through the years... I was waiting.
 - A. Some people have this “waiting room” concept of waiting when it comes to “waiting” for Jesus.
 - B. But nothing could be further from the truth.
- III. So, let’s come to an understanding of how we wait, and apply that concept to ourselves.

Body:

I. The Concept of “Waiting”...

- A. My favorite passage:
 1. **Isa 40:28ff** *“²⁸ Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. ²⁹ He gives strength to the weary, And to him who lacks might He increases power. ³⁰ Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, ³¹ Yet those who wait for the Lord Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.”*
 2. “Waiting,” in this sense, is all about trust.
 - a. It’s all about knowing that the Lord is in control.
 - b. It’s all about knowing that the Lord will take care of the situation.
 - c. Because you trust the Lord, you will let Him handle the problem.
- B. **Zeph 3:8** *“Therefore, wait for Me,” declares the Lord, ‘For the day when I rise up to the prey. Indeed, My decision is to gather nations, To assemble kingdoms, To pour out on them My indignation, All My burning anger; For all the earth will be devoured By the fire of My zeal.’”*
 1. Israel wanted the vengeance to be taken care of now, and yesterday would have been better.
 2. But the Lord says, “Trust Me! I am going to take care of this!”
 3. Do you see a lesson for us as we look at the direction of the world around us?
 - a. People who do not believe in God will readily take vengeance into their own hands.
 - b. Over time, their anger becomes uncontrollable.
 - c. Everything becomes a situation they must fix by their own wisdom and brute force (e.g. the man who shot his neighbor (about 5 time, and killed him) who had swatted his own dog to discipline him for jumping a fence his leash wouldn’t let him clear; or the woman who attacked the fast food cashier for getting her order wrong; or the woman who killed a man for cutting her off in traffic).
 4. **I Pt 3:8-12** *“To sum up, let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; ⁹ not returning evil for evil, or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. ¹⁰ For, ‘Let him who means to love life and see good days Refrain his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking guile. ¹¹ And let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. ¹² For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, And His ears attend to their prayer, But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.’”*
- C. **Micah 7:7ff** *“But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me. ⁸ Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy. Though I fall I will rise; Though I dwell in darkness, the Lord is a light for me. ⁹ I will bear the indignation of the Lord Because I have sinned against Him, Until He pleads my case and executes justice for me. He will bring me out to the light, And I will see His righteousness.”*
 1. When we talk about “waiting” for the Lord, we are talking about complete trust in Him.
 2. When we talk about “waiting for Jesus,” we trust in His coming to the point where we serve Him zealously.

II. **Do We Just Sit Around in Trust?...**

- A. Three Parables of Waiting (note how each parable escalates the importance of readiness):
 - 1. **Mt 25:1-13** A bridegroom and the wedding party.
 - a. Five of the ten virgins were not ready because they only *partially* prepared.
 - b. Partial preparation is inadequate, and results in our being “shut out.”
 - 2. **Mt 25:14-30** A master and his servants.
 - a. The man with one talent was cast into outer darkness, but it wasn’t for doing nothing.
 - b. He worked harder at burying that talent than he would have by just depositing it with the bankers.
 - c. The man did not act in the best interest of his master. He lived in fear, rather than faith.
 - 3. **Mt 25:31-46** Jesus and the servants in His kingdom.
 - a. The goats were not lost because they did not serve Jesus.
 - b. They were lost because they didn’t seek opportunities to serve the king by serving the king’s subjects.
- B. We engage in *His* service because we trust *Him*.

Conclusion:

- I. If our hearts are truly set on the power of God and His faithfulness, we will trust Him.
- II. In trust, we will wait on His justice and mercy.
- III. In trust, we will hope in His salvation.
- IV. In trust, we will be “waiting for Jesus.”