



Sermon Series: The Hope, part 3

Sermon Title: Waiting for Hope

Speaker/ Date: Reuben Scheeringa, December 20, 2020

Waiting can have huge implications in our lives! So, in this season of Christmas and waiting, we are going to dig into what this waiting means, and how we should respond. Which brings us to our BIG IDEA.

BIG IDEA: Your response to waiting reveals where your trust and hope really dwell.

1.HOW WE TYPICALLY WE WAIT.

The prophet Isaiah was giving God's instructions to His people, who were not being extremely obedient. So as a sign of how God would one day provide a way to solve the sin problem that continued to separate them from Him, God unveiled a clue to the birth of Jesus. **Isaiah 7:13-14**

This is one of Isaiah's prophecies that was not fulfilled for over 700 years. That is a long time to wait! Isaiah's audience, God's people were bad at waiting. They had actually developed a great history of impatience! **Genesis 16:1-4 , Exodus 32, 1 Samuel 8:19-22, 1 Samuel 13:8-10**

The unfortunate truth is we are inherently impatient and prideful, just like Isaiah's audience. The book of Proverbs speaks to this struggle directly in **Proverbs 14:29**

When we glance through the accounts of the people in the Old Testament we see that their impatience and their prideful attitudes led them to some HUGE failures!

- 1. Abraham,** had a kid with his wife's servant and started a world war
- 2. Moses,** disobeyed God and missed out on the Promised Land
- 3. Israel,** embraced Saul, lost thousands to war, turned from God
- 4. Saul,** chose to cut God out, lost his crown, and this led to both his and his son's death

We are inherently impatient people, and the end result of our impatience is always the pain of stupid mistakes. This is why God is so intentional with the process of waiting.

2. HOW WE SHOULD WAIT.

There is a painful path that we take when we are unable to wait it typically looks something like this...

Impatience > Pride > Emptiness > Bitterness

Whether your impatience is felt more in regards to your anger, purity, or even just greed, our inability to wait always leads us to a place of emptiness and bitterness!

But when we wait on God, put our trust in Him, and follow His timing, we are always led to a place of fulfillment and joy!

Patience > Humility > Fulfillment > Joy

When we look into the Gospels and see Jesus' birth we find a man who took this process of waiting to heart and received the great benefits of God's promises. His name is Simeon. **Luke 2:25-32**

In those days, Simeon had been waiting patiently to meet Jesus, and his waiting was rewarded when he held baby Jesus in his arms and bless him.

Simeon's focus was not on himself, it was on the arrival of Jesus! He waited in humility and showed his patience in the waiting process. Just like Simeon soaked up the anticipation leading up to meeting Jesus, we have that same opportunity every year as we experience the Advent of Christmas.

3. WAIT IN CONFIDENT HOPE.

Advent is all about waiting for Jesus birth, but post-Jesus' birth we are still waiting. We are waiting for Christ's return. Waiting for the Advent "The Coming" of Christ's return should draw us closer to Him as we aim to become more like Him. And when we begin to mirror Christ's patience and focus we will wait for Him more authentically.

Paul writes to Titus with this same longing. **Titus 2:11-14**

This Christmas, as we look BACK and celebrate the fact that Jesus answered the call to obey God and come to Earth as a baby, and as we exchange gifts to remember that He himself is the greatest gift of all time, let us also focus our hearts on our new advent: that the promise God delivered to humanity in the manger is yet to be fully revealed!

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **Why is society getting more impatient?**
- **What lesson can we learn from Simeon and the way he waited to see Jesus?**
- **What does confident hope look like to you? In other words, what are characteristics of someone who waits with confident hope?**
- **What are some tips you can offer to someone who has difficulty waiting?**
- **What is the greatest area in which you struggle with waiting?**
- **Would you say that you are waiting patiently for the return of Jesus or are you getting less patient?**