

The Waiting Man

An exposition of Psalm 62
at West Hills San Jose on October 24, 2021

INTRODUCTION: Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Hallow your name in Silicon Valley, make your name holy here in San Jose, exalt yourself in my heart and among us for your own glory. We pray for the lost across the whole earth, please save.

We pray the whole church, across the whole earth, raise up missionaries, translators, evangelists, servants of love who will bring the message to those in need.

We pray for the missionaries in Haiti who were kidnapped this past week and are being held for ransom, we pray that you would make them a powerful and effective witness to those gang members. That they would be your images of love and compassion to the wicked men who abducted them, and that you would convert their captors to Christ and deliver them from their sins. We pray that you would bring those missionaries safely home, and through your grace, strengthen and establish them in Christ to persevere for your glory.

We pray for our own missionaries. We pray for the Jourdans, would you establish their ministry, would you nourish their marriage, would you encourage them in Christ.

We pray for Hesh, would you open doors for the gospel, would you protect him from the evil one, encourage his soul, bring many to Christ under his preaching.

We pray for the christian church in San Jose, would you make us one as Christ is one with the Father. Would you give us a pure unity in truth, love and purpose.

Finally we pray for this local congregation. We pray for Irving Cortez, who doesn't live here anymore but is still very much a part of our church family. Would you heal his body, and save him from death. Would you fill him with the will to fight for his life, and bring him in strength back to the land of the living. I pray for the whole Cortez family, would you fill them with faith and hope no matter what happens. Would you establish them in your promises and help them to stand firmly upon your resurrection truths as they wait patiently upon your answer to this situation. We remember the Clarkes, would you heal Mark and restore his body for his work in the Lord. Would you encourage Marge and Katie as they continue to wait on you in faith for what is coming next. Would you help us, as we seek to learn and grown and become more faithful in our callings, especially in our devotion to you as our first love for the glory of your name. Amen.

PROBLEM: Grace and peace West Hills San Jose. It is my great honor and privilege this morning to share with you what I've received from Christ in His Word this week, and to learn from Him as He speaks to us through His Holy Scripture. This mornings Psalm is about everyone's favorite life activity...waiting. Yesterday, I was able to speak with some of the youth of our church about the task of waiting and I was reminded that when you are a kid, the most challenging thing about having to wait is how boring it is. Waiting mostly describes the time between now and getting what you want. That's what waiting is when you are younger, for most kids. Yet that changes as you become older doesn't it. Life becomes busier, and the things you are find yourself waiting for change into difficult things, or scary things, or painful things. Is this person going to be okay? What will the results of this medical test mean? How is this sin going

to impact our relationship? What does this mean for my employment? How do I manage this situation going forward? This person still doesn't like me...after I've tried everything I can think of. You have done what you can...and there is nothing left for you to do...but wait. The Scripture has categories for people in that situation. And here is what I think the main point is from our Psalm today ready?

MAIN POINT: Waiting on God is always hard, but it's always worth it. Keep hoping in Him.

SETTING THE CONTEXT: Please open your bibles to Psalm 62. Let's take a brief moment to situate this Psalm in its context. First we look at the heading of the Psalm, and as a reminder, I always do this because the heading is part of the original Hebrew text. Which means it's part of Scripture. Which means God intended for us to not only have this but think about it and understand it. The heading begins with to the choirmaster. So this is a composition intended for corporate worship. Even though this is going to read like a first person account of David going through something difficult, it is, in FACT, written for the choirmaster to be sung by the community. Next it says according to Jeduthun. Jeduthun along with two other men, Heman and Asaph we are told in the book of Chronicles were three men chosen by David for the sole purpose of giving thanks to the Lord for His steadfast love endures forever (1 Chronicles 16:41 and 1 Chronicles 25:1-2). Their sons prophesied in worship and established the worshipping life of Israel for generations to come. So when it says that this Psalm was composed ACCORDING to Jeduthun, many scholars think that Jeduthun had a unique style of music, and this Psalm was sung in accordance with his unique style. And of course lastly, it was written either by or for David. The longer we are in the Psalms and the more intimate I've become with them in their original language, the more familiar the sound of David's pen feels to me...I think this was written BY David, though that is impossible for me to prove. But that said, let's listen to the Word of God through the voice of His king. Psalm 62

READING: To the choirmaster: according to Jeduthun. A Psalm of David. [1] For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. [2] He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken. [3] How long will all of you attack a man to batter him, like a leaning wall, a tottering fence? [4] They only plan to thrust him down from his high position. They take pleasure in falsehood. They bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse. Selah [5] For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. [6] He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. [7] On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. [8] Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. Selah [9] Those of low estate are but a breath; those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath. [10] Put no trust in extortion; set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, set not your heart on them. [11] Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God, [12] and that to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love. For you will render to a man according to his work. (ESV)

PRAYER: Here we are Lord, speak to us, your servants are listening, amen.

ROAD MAP: Here is the outline for today's message. We are going to start by looking at how to 1.) WAIT when you feel helpless, 2.) How to wait when you DON'T feel helpless, 3.) How to think about the God you are waiting for.

WAITING WHEN YOU FEEL HELPLESS

1. Let's start with David and why he is waiting. What KIND of waiting is this? Verse 1 says For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. So David is waiting in silence upon God for some kind of salvation. Salvation from what. Well if you look down at verses 3 and 4 the answer is obviously secret enemies working against him.
 1. Verse 3 how long will all of you attack a man, to batter him, like a leaning wall a tottering fence. So the image here is think of an old fence that is kind of standing on it's last leg. It's tilting and about to fall over. And there comes along some destructive punks, and they are kicking the thing to try and finally knock it over. That's how David feels. I'm already thrust down...and my enemies have come along and they are trying to pummel me down into the dust.
 2. They aren't trying to accomplish anything in verse 4. They only plan to thrust him down from his high position. There is no plan after that. They are solely bent on destruction. There is no method to the madness just a fervent desire to destroy.
 3. I don't know if you have experienced that in your life. But that's a really dark effect of sin upon the souls of young people when you encounter it. When someone comes along who doesn't have any purpose or reason for it, but something is broken in their soul and they just want to inflict harm. It's not logical. It's emotional. It just comes out of their heart and lashes in every direction. David is experiencing these kinds of people...and I want to use his experience as a reminder to hug your children. Whether they are old or young. You can make the world a better and less violent place today...if you look at someone today, and tell them that you love them and hugging them.
 4. So David is dealing with violet people whose sole ambition is to pound him down into the dust for no particular reason. But verse 4, he isn't really sure who the author of this violence is. And the reason he doesn't know is because they take pleasure in falsehood, in verse 4. They bless with their mouths but inwardly they curse. With their mouths they say we are with you David. We've got your back. We are here for you just let us know if you need anything at all, and we are there. That's what they say. But in their hearts they say, I hate you David. The second you show me your back I'm going to thrust in a blade. Let your guard down for one minute and I'm going to kill you.
 5. And David is not a fool. David can sense that is going on around him. That these sentiments are occurring, but he can't really tell who it's coming from exactly. And so he is waiting on God.
2. And of course my question is David why aren't you asking God for help? Why are you just waiting and I think the only logical answer to that question, given all the Psalms we've gone through up to this point, where David is so clear and so specific in how he prays, is that David has already poured out his heart. In Verse 8, David tells everyone as the lesson from his own experience to pour out your heart before God. David has prayed and prayed and

prayed. God show me who the traitor is. God remove the treacherous person from among my ranks. I can sense he is here, but I don't know who it is. God please help. I can't keep sleeping with one eye open...save me.

1. He's already poured out his heart and there is nothing left to do but wait. I think this is a helpless waiting. I've prayed, I've searched my heart, I've interrogated the people around me, and I am completely out of ideas for how to deal with this problem. God help. I've got nothing left...unless you help...I'm going to be murdered in my sleep. I'm waiting on you Lord.
2. And this feels intense, but it's not unique. This is a constant prayer for all of God's people across history. This is the prayer of Israel wandering the deserts north of Egypt. Go please lead us to the promise land or we are going to die out here. This is Daniel in the lions den. This is Joseph in Potiphers dungeon. This is the apostles on holy Saturday waiting to see if Jesus really will come out of the tomb. This is the kind of prayer we have to pray as we wait to see if our dear brother Irvin Cortez is going to be okay, God please help...please. And then you have to just wait in silence. There is nothing we can really do to help, you just have to wait. Do you know how to wait? Have you ever heard teaching on how to wait in a godly way? I haven't, and I'm really interested in talking about this with you guys about the lessons from this biblical text and how to use it.
3. Let's look at this carefully and ask what does David do when there is nothing left to do? What does David do, when he is helpless to change his circumstances, and he has no idea how things are going to play out. By the way...let me just stop for a second and ask you this question...is there anything in life right now...that you really care about, but you can sense deep down in your bones...is completely outside of your control? What is it? I have a few. You've probably prayed about those things a lot...and now you are waiting. How does David wait in a godly way? Let's look back at our text
 1. David makes the conscious decision to look for salvation, to look for the answer from God alone.
 1. David says, "for God ALONE my soul waits in silence; from Him comes my salvation. He ALONE is my rock and my salvation my fortress I shall not be greatly shaken." I want you to look at that and try and read it as literal statement. David is saying...I'm literally done trying to take this thing into my own hands and deal with it myself. I'm literally done trying to solve this problem on my own...I have accepted that it's outside of my control...and I am now only looking to God to help.
 2. This is what real faith in a living God, looks like sometimes. Did you know that? We are a very action oriented people. We look at problems, most of us, all of us, and we say well why don't we just do X. Or Y. Just fix it. But the older you get, the more you begin to encounter things you just can't fix. You can't fix people. You can't just fix relationships. You can't just fix medical issues. You can't just fix the government. You can't just fix (insert frustrating thing in your life that is outside of your control). And you can grab grab grab for control...but a day is coming, if it hasn't already come where you are going to be confronted with the reality that you can't control everything. There are real things in this life, that you are helpless to change. And

sometimes, the godly thing to do, is to say God, I'm going to wait for you to intervene.

2. And here is what is so hard about that. Being willing to wait on God means being willing to move at his pace. Saying for God alone I will wait, means I'm going to actually stop striving and wait for the living God to help me. David makes the conscious decision to do this. And he does it well. And there are a few really practical reasons why he is able to do it well.
4. He does a few things in his mind as He is waiting that are really helpful. FIRST he reminds himself of what is true. God brings salvation. God is my rock. God is my fortress verse 2. David doesn't say from God might come my salvation. He says from Him comes my salvation verse 1. Verse 5 my hope is FROM HIM. He only verse 6 is my ROCK and my Salvation. Verse 7 on God rests my salvation. What is David saying? He is saying I am in covenant with the God who has promised to save me. To uphold my life. To work in power in and through me for His own purposes and glory. And I believe...that He is literally going to be faithful to his covenant. I believe, that even though I don't HAVE control, HE DOES. And He is going to do everything that He has promised to do. Practical step number 1 for waiting well, make a point of reminding yourself of what you know is true about God. He is OUR SAVIOR.
5. Second, Let the truth fuel your confidence in God. One of the things I've noticed about pastoral ministry, is that a big part of my role in your life is reminding you of things that you know are true. Verse 2 says that God alone is my rock and salvation and fortress, then it says I will not be greatly shaken. Or shaken violently. So the first thing David says is God is with me, I'm going to be shaken but not violently. In verse 6 he repeats himself sort of. God only is my rock and my salvation and my fortress; I shall not be shaken...period. David, in HIS mind is reminding himself about the truths of God. And he says first...this is not going to be THAT BAD...then he reminds himself about God again and says this is not going to be bad.
 1. WHY? Verse because on God rests...on God depends my salvation and my glory or my honor. I am who I am because God saved me. I am who I am because God made me kind and promised to uphold my line. Let me just suggest to you brothers and sisters in Christ that you are who you are because God saved you, and He has promised to be with you always even to the end of the ages.
 2. So David doesn't just make the conscious decision to wait on God. He uses what he knows to be true about God to fuel His confidence in Him.
6. THIRD, David acknowledges the fullness of His complaint to God in utter humility. The complaint in verses 3 and 4 is really interesting. He doesn't actually ask for any specific deliverance. He just confesses...this is really bad. People are mean. People are doing evil things to me. No request. No demand. Just an acknowledgement, this is really bad. And I don't know what to do. I'm just going to wait on you, because I'm helpless here to even know what deliverance looks like. It is good and right to feel that way sometimes. That is what humble waiting looks like in this Psalm. I'm waiting Lord. Here is what's really bad. I'm waiting on you to help.
7. Finally, David doesn't just meditate on what is true, he doesn't just let the truth fuel his confidence, he doesn't just acknowledge the fullness of what is hard, he literally preaches

these things to His own soul. Verse 1 he says For God alone my soul waits. In verse 5 He tells his soul O my SOUL WAIT IN SILENCE. I'm waiting...hey soul, WAIT. I think waiting on the Lord was just as hard for David as it is for you. And I don't think David looked at waiting on God as a passive thing. It's an active posture of obedience. He soul... WAIT ON GOD. Don't scheme. Don't try to think of new ways to solve your unsolvable problem...wait silently before the God of love and power.

8. This is how David waits when he feels helpless. And he is a model for us. This is how we ought to wait when we feel helpless. We ought to think about what is true, we ought to let the truth fuel our confidence, we ought to acknowledge the fullness of what is hard about things to God, and then we need to preach to ourselves and keep ourselves in a posture of humble waiting.
9. But there is another kind of waiting that is harder than helpless waiting. Harder than waiting when you feel helpless is waiting when you DON'T feel helpless

WAITING WHEN YOU DON'T FEEL HELPLESS

1. David says in verse 8 trust in Him at all times O people. This instruction isn't just about David. It's David's invitation into his whole way of life.
2. David calls us to trust in God in ALL times...In all circumstances. To pour out our hearts to him because he is a refuge for us. We will talk about not feeling helpless in a minute but first I want to talk about pouring out your heart.
3. The imagery is supposed to invite you to reflect. David's image is this. Think about a cup of water. Now imagine the cup is your heart. And the water is all the concerns and fears and anxieties and worries. You are supposed to take your cup heart to God, and pour out all the water fears in front of him...so that everything...all of it, every single one is dumped out on the floor before the God of love.
 1. Have you ever done that? You should. Do you know why? Because it's amazing. Because it's the real, primary, God given way to actually deal with and process your problems. Do you need to confess to other believers of course. Is counseling sometimes a necessary part of healing of course. But I'm saying that that is supplemental to and a complimentary part of pouring out your heart to the God who made you. To the one who is actually a Savior. Actually a rock for you. No human being can be an immovable rock.
 2. God is the only immortal, immovable, unshakable reality in the universe. He alone is changeless. That is why we ought to have no other God's before Him. Because He really is the only meaningful anchor in this world.
4. But David is also a man, and he knows how easy it is to buy into the illusion that created things can be the rock upon which to build your life and hope. And when he is feeling helpless he can see the HELPFUL things for what they really are. Verse 9, those of low estate are but a breath and those of high estate are a delusion, in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath. Those who you esteem very little, are a vapor, and the people you think are so smart and helpful and godly...aren't really as smart or as helpful or as godly as you think they...their high estate is a delusion.
5. Why is David bringing this up? I think the point is: Don't put your hope in people. People fail. People are passing away. People are passing vapors. And those that seem great today

won't seem great for long. I don't think David means don't trust anyone. I think this weightless description of people is meant to be the counter balance to the weighty description of God in verses 11-12. Don't hope IN people who are here today gone tomorrow...hope IN GOD who is from everlasting to everlasting.

6. I hope that everyone in this room, is going to make it to the finish line in faith. But it would be foolish for me to hop IN that. To make that the benchmark of success in ministry. That isn't in my control. What I can do, is hope in God to show Himself faithful, to keep you who belong to Him close to Himself, and to use me as his instrument to help you on your journey to meeting him face to face.
 1. People seem weak and seem strong in this world, and it can create the illusion of control. But we, in a point of fact, are lighter than a breath. The strong who dominated the weak are going to give an account, and the weak who in humility cried out in faith, are going to be vindicated over the strong. And all the appearances of strength will disappear under the soul revealing sight of God and His judgement.
 2. Don't trust in people. Trust in God.
7. Verse 10, there is another thing that we can be tempted to put our trust in, namely sin. Put no trust in extortion; set no vain hopes on robbery. In other words, when we can take control through righteous means, one of our temptations is to want to seize control through unrighteous means. You may find yourself in situations in this life...where lying seems like the more pragmatically effective path than telling the truth. Where sinning seems like it will be more effective than doing what is righteous. But doing the wrong thing is always the wrong thing. And doing the right thing is never the wrong thing. Put no HOPE in sin, David says. Sin is never the way out.
 1. If the only way forward in your mind requires you to sin...than you need to stop what you are doing and wait on the Lord.
8. Finally David says Put no trust in riches. In verse 10 set not your heart on them. I think what all of these things have in common is that they are common competitors for our trust and hope for salvation. People, sin, money.
9. We are going to be okay because this person. I can make things okay if I just secretly... Things are going to be okay because of my IRA, because of the funds in some account. David says DON'T SET YOUR HEART on those things. Don't say from my bank account alone comes my salvation. Don't say in your heart, as long as I have HER with ME or HIM with me...they will be my rock and my refuge. David calls us to trust in God AT ALL TIMES...even when there are lesser things competing for our trust and affection.
 1. And it's worth asking for a second. Why is David bringing this up? Well we went from his individual sense of helpless waiting where his trust is fully on the Lord. He then turned and made this a corporate command in verse 8...he seems to say that his attitude is universally applicable to everyone who is waiting. Than he brings up the common things that are easy to turn to when things become difficult? Why does he bring that up?
 2. ANSWER: Because waiting is ALWAYS HARD. Whether you feel helpless or not. Waiting is a challenge. Our first instinct is to take our situation into our own hands and to own as though we are the masters of our fate. And sometimes God gives us the gift of verses 1-7 to see that from God alone comes our salvation. But a lot of the time, we live

with the constant temptation to trust ourselves, to trust others, to look at sin or wealth as the thing that will deliver us. Waiting is hard...but God is worth it.

10. Take your heart and set it upon GOD...not people, or sin, or wealth. Which brings us to the conclusion of the Psalm and to the answer WHY? Why set your heart on God and not on people or sin or wealth. WHY wait on God when you feel helpless and not helpless? Let's conclude by reflecting on the God worth waiting for...

THE GOD WORTH WAITING ON

1. Verse 11 says once God has spoken; twice have I heard this...in other words, something that God has reiterated numerous times in His word is that:
2. Power belongs to God. Power doesn't belong to you. Power doesn't belong to me. Power doesn't belong to the army, to the president, to the news or to any other thing that is stressing you out right now. Power, actual power belongs to God, who holds the hearts of all men in his hand and inclines them wherever he wishes. Power belongs to the God of creation who own all the cattle on all the hills. Power belongs to the one gives life and death, and who can raise from death those who have perished. Power belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ who reigns over all at the right hand of God the Father. Power belongs to the one who holds the fate of our immortal souls in His own hands. That is power folks...and that power belongs to God.
 1. My kids and I watched a video about the size of stars. It was a video trying to illustrate the relative size of things in the observable universe. And it started with earth, and compared it with saturn, which was compared to jupiter and the screen kept pulling out and out and out to the sun, to the next closest start, to seem of the bigger stars, to the largest observable stars. To the nebula, to the galaxy, to the section of galaxies, to the bootes void to the whole observable universe. And of course at that point, the earth and our sun are small than the point of a needle. And one of my kids observed...after watching that...that's kind of scary. To be something so small in a universe that big.
 2. To which I observed, but we know the God who made all that, and he loves us and is for us in Christ. It's not only power that belongs to God it's also steadfast love in verse 11.
3. Steadfast, loyal, covenant mercy belongs to God. We serve a God who is as merciful as He is powerful. Who is as loving as He is strong. And it is upon these twin pillars that we find rest for our souls. Is the world in our control. NO. What do we do with that. We take our hearts and rest them in faith upon the one who DOES HAVE control. Who does have power, and who loves us with a faithful, merciful, tender love, and is for us in Christ Jesus.
 1. When your mind and your heart have embraced the fullness of God's power and love towards you in Christ Jesus, you heart will know peace.
4. God is not only loving and strong...to Him belongs justice. He will render to a man according to his work. The NT picks up on this language and tells us that this is ultimately about eternal judgment.
 1. And this is a sword that cuts in both directions. This means both that the cruel and the wicked, are not going to get away with anything. And also that those who are patient and wait on the Lord, will not fail to receive any of their reward. God is just, and all injustices will be dealt with fairly and in due time.

5. And it's worth asking the question, how can I know if any of this is true. If the God of power really has a sincere care for me, if His steadfast love and justice really are worth waiting for? Money and people and sin can produce results now. Why would I wait for God, what reason is there to suffer the wait? And the answer is because of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, where love and justice meet.
 1. Where the Lord of power humbled Himself taking on flesh and became our servant. He suffered under the just wrath of God, due to us, for our sins, to save us and secure for us an eternal redemption. Christ died for our sins according to the Scripture. God's power brought Him to the cross, God's power sustained Him on the cross. And God's power lifted Him up out of the grave according to Scripture. At the cross, I see not only the source of my salvation...but every reason you could ever need to hope in God in all circumstances.
 2. God doesn't just tell you power and steadfast love belong to Him...He shows you in the life, death and resurrection of the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ.
6. This is why it's worth it to wait for God. Because He is good. And He has displayed that goodness publicly, for all to see. And part of why He did that, was so that you would have confidence in the God you are waiting for.

Waiting on God is always hard, but it's always worth it. So keep hoping in Him.

COMMUNION: There is a sense in which the communion meal is a meal of waiting. This is the practice party for the real party. We take this bread and eat it, and take this cup and drink it in spiritual communion with our Lord Jesus Christ. But this bread and this cup is going to give way to thick steak and rich drink in the physical presence of our resurrected Savior. And we celebrate this meal in the present, in anticipation of the meal to come. We do this...until he comes.