



Scripture Reading

24 "The Lord is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."

25 The Lord is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul who seeks him.

26 It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.

-Lamentations 3:24-26

Devotional

It is uncommon to find someone who enjoys waiting. A culture that values hustle and hurry, waiting is not a top priority. Some may say we as a culture are impatient. We do not believe in delayed gratification; same day delivery only, unless it just has to be delivered within 24 hours. We will switch lanes, in the car or the grocery line, in order to cut down our wait time even if just by a minute or two. Good thing we have our smartphones as well. Now we have something to distract us from the actual feeling of waiting in those times there is no other alternative.

Asking someone to embrace waiting can be a hard sell, but that is what God invites us into during this season of advent. The word 'advent' means arrival or coming and usually in regard to a king. The notion of waiting, therefore, is tied to the word itself. We wait for the arrival of our king, Jesus. However, we do not wait aimlessly. We wait with the joyful anticipation of the salvation and joy that our king brings. Another way to talk about our waiting is hope. We wait for our king with the hope that when Jesus comes we will encounter the one who saves us and will set the world right. As the author of Lamentations says, because our hope is in the Lord, it is good for us to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. We are called to embrace waiting because we are called to embrace hope. In the waiting we prepare our hearts for the joyful return of Jesus. In this advent season, we are reminded that our hope is in Jesus who came to save us and will come once again to restore all things.

Response

Take some time to think through these questions:

-Where have you put your hope?

-One way to help think through this question would be to ask yourself where would your family, friends, or bank account say you have put your hope?

-What are some ways you or your family can embrace waiting this advent season (i.e. driving in the slow lane, not pulling your phone out as you wait in line or the dmV, etc.)?

-Which line of Lamentations 3:24-26 resonates with you the most?

-Spend some time in prayer thanking God for being good to those who wait for him (Lam. 3:25).