

WAITING HERE FOR YOU

An Advent Journey of Hope

LESSON 4 – GOD IS WAITING FOR YOU

*“So the LORD must wait for you to come to him so he can show you his love and compassion. For the LORD is a faithful God. Blessed are those who wait for his help.” **Isaiah 30:18 (NLT)***

When God sent His Son to earth to be born in what was little more than a stable. During those four centuries while the people of Israel waited for God to send the Messiah, they probably assumed His arrival would be unmistakable. You know, lots of royal fanfare and extravagant celebrations at the temple, or perhaps a major battle to take down their latest enemy and restore Israel as a political powerhouse. But God turned their expectations upside down and entered this world in humble manner. Oh, there was fanfare, heavenly angels, proclaiming God's glory—and extravagant gifts from foreign rule dignitaries. But none of it likely met people's expectations. Jesus arrived, but few realized the Savior was in their midst.

God wants us to receive so much more than we expect. He's already ahead of us, using our circumstances, choices, and consequences as *He shapes His plans* for our lives. No matter what you're waiting for, God is already there, waiting for you.

GOD'S PLAN

1. God had a *plan*, when Caesar Augustus issued the **decree** that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.
 - A. Everyone was **required** to return to their city of origin.

*“In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.” **Luke 2:1-3 (NIV)***
 - B. There was no **arguing** about his decrees, so Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem.

TRUSTING GOD

2. We need to **trust** God while we wait.

Quote: *“If we are going to learn to trust God in adversity, we must believe God will allow nothing to subvert His glory so He will allow nothing to spoil the good He is working out in us and for us.” –Jerry Bridges*

3. Trusting God while we wait **develops character**.
 - A. Knowing God is **transforming** us, we do not lose heart, viewing our troubles as momentary compared to the eternity that awaits us.

“That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. ¹⁷ For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! ¹⁸ So we don't look at the troubles we can see now;

rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.” 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NLT)

- B. God's **objective** is not to make our lives easier, but to make our lives matter.

Quote: *“Some have the idea that God’s purpose is to make our lives more tolerable here on earth. That rather cheapens what Christ did on the cross. If all He wanted to do was make our lives tolerable, then He could have done it in a variety of other ways. God’s supreme purpose for us is to make us like His Son, Jesus Christ. If we understand that everything happening to us is to make us more Christlike, it will solve a great deal of anxiety in our lives.” –A.W. Tozer*

4. Trusting God while we wait **builds confidence**.

- A. The Magi brought **gifts** of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

“On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.” Matthew 2:11 (NIV)