

## WAITING HERE FOR YOU

An Advent Journey of Hope

### LESSON 2 – GOD WILL USE YOUR WAITING

*"But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently." Romans 8:25 (NIV)*

When you're waiting on God, you may not understand why He seems to be taking longer than you thought or why unexpected obstacles have popped up. You keep waiting and praying and hoping, all the while wondering why it's taking so long. Maybe you even wondered if God has forgotten you or if you misinterpreted how He's guiding you.

Surely, the people of Israel experienced some of those same thoughts and feelings during those hundreds of years they spent waiting on the prophecies about the Messiah to be fulfilled. Each generation may have wondered if they would see the Promised One arrive and restore Israel. Each generation likely wrestled with a sense of disappointment as they realized they were apparently not going to live to see God's promise realized.

#### **Waiting Is Never Wasted**

1. We can have **hope** for our future, knowing one day God will set all things right.
  - A. We must **admit** that things in this world right now are very wrong.
  - B. We must **acknowledge** that some of us are going through a difficult season this Christmas. This includes recognizing ways you are struggling right now.
2. God allows us to **choose** the object of our fixation in a world that is not right.
  - A. While it's easy to **fixate** on the crisis in life, we can make the conscious choice to fixate on Christ.

**Quote:** *"God always gives His best to those who leave the choice with him."* -Jim Elliot

- B. In the storms of life, we learn to practice "**spiritual replacement**"— focusing on Jesus without ignoring the painful reality of this world.
- C. We **remember** Jesus was also in an advent season of waiting.

#### **Jesus Calms the Storm**

3. Luke's Gospel talks about a **storm** that occurred in the disciples' lives.
  - A. Jesus **tells** His disciples to cross to the other side of the lake.  
*"One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." So, they got into a boat and set out."* **Luke 8:22**
  - B. Jesus **falls asleep** while a storm arises.

"As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.<sup>24</sup> The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm." **Luke 8:23-24**

- C. Jesus **rebukes** the storm and asks, "Where is your faith?"

*"Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him." Luke 8:25*

**Quote:** *"If you never go anywhere but where Christ leads the way, you need not be afraid of storms, for they will beat upon him more than upon you."* -**Charles Spurgeon**