

SMALL GROUPS

Key Scripture References

- Galatians 4:4 - "But when the right time came..."
- Isaiah 64:4 - "For since the world began, no ear has heard and no eye has seen a God like you who works for those who wait for him."
- John 2:3-4 - Jesus says "My time has not yet come"
- Isaiah 55:8-9 - "My thoughts are not your thoughts..."

Sermon Summary

Pastor Mack explored how even Jesus had to wait—30 years before beginning His public ministry. While we wait on God, He is actively working either on the situation, on us, or His answer may be "no." The key is not to waste the waiting season but to actively pursue God and trust His timing, glorifying Him regardless of the outcome.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

1. The Reality of Waiting
 - Why do you think waiting is so difficult for us in modern society?
 - Share about a time when you felt God was silent or taking too long to answer a prayer.

2. God's Timing vs. Our Timing
 - Pastor Mack mentioned that during the 400-year "silent period" before Christ, God was preparing the world for Jesus. What does this teach us about God's behind-the-scenes work?
 - Read John 2:3-4. Why do you think Jesus told His mother "My time has not yet come"?

3. What God Does While We Wait
 - The sermon suggested three possibilities: God is working on IT, God is working on YOU, or God's answer is NO. Which of these is hardest for you to accept? Why?
 - Can you share an example where you later understood why God made you wait?

Going Deeper

4. Don't Waste the Waiting
 - What's the difference between waiting passively and waiting actively?
 - What are some practical ways we can "serve while we're waiting" instead of just sitting idle?

5. When God Says No
 - How do you respond when God's answer seems to be "no" instead of "not yet"?
 - Read the story of Paul (Saul) building tents for possibly a decade before his ministry began. What does this teach us about character development?

6. Worship in the Waiting
 - Pastor Mack said, "He's worthy of it all whether He answers or not." How does this challenge our transactional approach to prayer?
 - What does it look like practically to "glorify God's name" whether He gives us what we want or not?

Key Takeaways

- ✓ While you're waiting, God is working - even when we can't see it or feel it
- ✓ Just because God feels silent doesn't mean He's absent - He's orchestrating things behind the scenes
- ✓ Sometimes God does something **IN** you before He does something **THROUGH** you - character before calling
- ✓ Don't waste the waiting - a waiting season is not a wasted season if we continue to seek God
- ✓ God deserves glory regardless of the outcome - our worship isn't conditional on getting what we want

Personal Reflection

Take 3-5 minutes of silence for personal reflection:

- What am I currently waiting on God for?
- Am I waiting actively (growing, serving, trusting) or passively (bitter, stagnant, doubting)?
- What might God be working on in ME during this season?
- Am I willing to say "Father, glorify Your name" even if the answer is no?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

1. Prayer Journal: Each day, write down what you're waiting for, then write "While I'm waiting, God is working" and list one possible way He might be working behind the scenes.

2. **Serve While Waiting:** Identify one way you can actively serve others or grow spiritually during your waiting season (join a ministry, start a Bible study, help someone else).
3. **Worship Regardless:** Each morning, before asking God for anything, spend 5 minutes declaring "You're worthy of it all" and listing reasons why God deserves glory regardless of your circumstances.
4. **Character Assessment:** Ask God to show you one area of character He's developing in you during this waiting season. Journal about what you're learning.
5. **Surrender Ritual:** Write down what you're trying to control or what you're waiting for on a piece of paper. Physically give it to God (place it in your Bible, burn it safely, etc.) as a symbol of surrender.

Group Prayer Time

Prayer Focus Areas:

- For those waiting on healing (physical, emotional, relational)
- For those waiting on provision (jobs, finances, housing)
- For those waiting on God to move in family members' lives
- For grace to trust God's timing
- For faith to believe He's working even when we can't see it
- For hearts that will glorify God regardless of the outcome

Prayer Method: Have each person share (briefly) one thing they're waiting on, then have the person next to them pray specifically for that need, declaring "While they're waiting, God is working."

Closing Thought

"You're worthy of it all. For from You are all things, and to You are all things. You deserve the glory."

God doesn't have to do anything for us to make Him worthy. He already IS worthy. Our waiting doesn't diminish His worthiness—it can actually increase our worship when we choose to trust Him in the darkness.