

Wait, Watch, and Listen
July 23, 2017

I **SLIDE** Get Ready

A) **1 Kings 19:21 (NIV)** ²¹ So Elisha left [Elijah] and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his attendant.

B) Timeline

- 1) 858 B.C. - Elijah places his cloak on Elisha
- 2) 857 B.C. - Ben-Hadad attacks Samaria
- 3) 855 B.C. - Ahab takes Naboth's Vineyard
- 4) 852 B.C. - Moab rebels
- 5) 851 B.C. - Elijah taken up to heaven - Elisha succeeds Elijah

C) Time of Waiting

- 1) This transition took over six years
- 2) Elisha served as Elijah's attendance while Ahab and Jezebel still reigned

II **SLIDE** Why is waiting so difficult?

A) Our time vs. God's time

B) Waiting vs. Doing Nothing

- 1) Waiting on the LORD is not a passive time
- 2) Usually we want to fill out waiting time with something, anything
- 3) We grow anxious, which makes it difficult to hear from the Lord
- 4) We often equate waiting as being equal to wasting time
- 5) Yet, waiting on the Lord is never a waste of time because God is always at work in us and around us
- 6) **SLIDE** Waiting on the Lord requires three things:
 - a) Quietness - being calm; absence of activity
 - i) Rocky Mountains
 - ii) In the evening, we did nothing but rest in quietness

- b) Diligence - careful and persistent work; concentration; earnest; persistent exertion of body OR mind
- c) Expectancy - state of hoping something good will happen; eagerness; excitement
- d) Vs. Anxious -feeling nervous about what MAY happen
- e) Thus, the conflict: We wait for the good that we know will happen vs. feeling nervous about what MAY happen
- 7) Remember, Elijah had a problem with feeling anxious and taking matters into his own hands
- C) **SLIDE** Why are we to wait upon the Lord?
 - 1) Guidance: **Psalm 25:5 (NIV)** Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.
 - 2) **SLIDE** Help: **Psalm 33:20 (NIV)** We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.
 - 3) **SLIDE** Answers: **Psalm 38:15 (NIV)** LORD, I wait for you; you will answer, Lord my God.
 - 4) **SLIDE** Assurance: **Psalm 130:5 (NIV)** I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.
 - 5) **SLIDE** Strength: **Isaiah 40:31 (AMP)** But those who wait for the Lord [who expect, look for, and hope in Him] / Will gain new strength and renew their power; / They will lift up their wings [and rise up close to God] like eagles [rising toward the sun]; / They will run and not become weary, / They will walk and not grow tired.
- D) Elijah and Elisha
 - 1) This is what was happening during those six years
 - 2) This is what is happening in this nation
 - 3) This is what is happening in Cornerstone
 - 4) However, we must be careful that we do not grow tired of waiting and take matters into our own hands
 - 5) We must also be careful that we do not allow the waiting to lull us into inactivity
 - 6) We must be careful that we do not give up and turn aside

- 7) Church is not something we do when we have the time
- 8) Church is who we are all of the time

III **SLIDE** Closer look at waiting

- A) **Habakkuk 1:1-4 (NIV)** ¹ The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet received. ² How long, O LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save? ³ Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds. ⁴ Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted.
 - 1) These could be our words
 - 2) These are our words
 - 3) These cries from Habakkuk do not sound like the cries of a prophet, but they are
- B) **SLIDE Habakkuk 1:5 (NIV)** ⁵ "Look at the nations and watch-- and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.
- C) **SLIDE Habakkuk 2:1 (NIV)** ¹ I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint.
- D) **SLIDE Habakkuk 2:2-3 (NIV)** ² Then the LORD replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. ³ For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.