

Going Deeper - Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

Gospel of James - Patience

October 4, 2020



Under normal circumstances, I'm highly suspect when someone asks me to, "close my eyes." These are the first thoughts that entered my mind when Bill asked us to close our eyes as he began his talk on James 5. Bill asked us to close our eyes and think about the thing that we've been waiting for. Next, what are the emotions that have been attached to waiting? Are they emotions of fear? Or perhaps frustration, anger, happiness, or maybe excitement? In the waiting, a work is being done in us - if we God do it.

James teaches us that the most important thing we should be patient for is the coming of the Lord. He also instructs us how to be patient. We shouldn't complain or fight against each other while we're waiting. Sometimes waiting equals suffering. It's important that we understand the work that is being done in us at these times. In fact, when we face suffering, that is the exact moment that God is also strengthening us for the future. Remember that we cannot speed-up Gods plan for us, but we can surely slow it down. Think of the Israelites who escaped Egypt and waited in the desert for 40 years because they weren't ready to make the 10 day trip to the land God has made for them.

You see, as we move through seasons of life on our God-given destiny, we face the opportunity to bear more responsibilities than before. God gives us additional resources to manage to the best of our ability, but it doesn't mean life gets easier. In fact, sometimes those additional resources require us to use the tools and skills we've gained up until that point. Without constant strengthening, we won't be ready for what God has for us.

Sometimes having patience is a behavior that is overlooked and not highly sought after in our fast-paced, achievement focused society. Have you ever thought to wonder why? If patience is a character trait of God, shouldn't it be something we hold in high regard and desire for ourselves?

A patient person is a happy person.

A patient person is an optimistic person.

A patient person knows how to yield control.

Action Items:

1. Close your eyes (don't be afraid) and think about what you are currently waiting for. What emotions does the waiting bring? Should you yield control to God or others while waiting? What is God trying to strengthen in your life in this moment?
2. Think of some practical things you can do the next time an opportunity comes up for you to be patient. Can you embrace the wait? How would God respond to that situation and how would he want you to respond?