

# WAITING (Part 2)

Sunday, May 3, 2020

Last week we began a series about WAITING and said that Most of us find ourselves in a place of waiting right now. We acknowledged that beyond the circumstances surrounding the corona virus pandemic, we are all too familiar with waiting - and we don't like it. We said that men and women throughout the scriptures were also familiar with waiting. And they didn't like it either. \

*Remember that {Abraham} waited until he was {100 years} old for the son she had {longed for}; Moses waited for 40 years on the backside of the desert for God's call; Joseph languished in prison for 15 years before God vindicated him. Even Paul spent 17 years in preparation before he began the ministry that God called him to on the road to Damascus.*

Our key text for this scripture is found in the words of Psalm 130:5-6  
The Psalmist sums it up perfectly when he says...

## **Psalm 130:5-6 New International Version (NIV)**

**5** I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope. **6** I wait for the Lord

We asked these questions: How good are you at waiting? Do we know how to wait? What processes are taking place while we are waiting? What does God want us to do while we are waiting?

In every kind of waiting, in each situation that we may face in our lives there is...

- **What is going on AROUND us** (The facts and realities surrounding our situation)
- **What is going on INSIDE us** (The thoughts, feelings, emotions, responses, fears, plans, battles, and hopefully spiritual development going in inside of us)
- **What is going on INSPITE of us** (Bigger than what is going on around us and more than what is going on inside us. Both God and the Enemy have a plan. We may not see it, we may not completely understand it; but at the very least we should be aware of it)

## WAITING FOR PROVISION

1. God knows what we need before we need it
2. Provision doesn't always look the same from day to day
  - Provision can be **NATURAL**
  - Provision can be **Extraordinary**
  - Provision can be **Supernatural**
3. It requires trust and obedience
4. Provision is dependent on God's goodness not ours

## WAITING FOR ANSWERS

Today we will focus on Job and David, two men who weren't afraid to acknowledge that they had questions. Two men who asked why? How long? What is going on? When? How come?

The psalms are full of David's questions. The book of Job is all about seeking answers from the Lord and, in its conclusion, God answers by questioning Job.

Throughout the scriptures we find people waiting for answers. In our own experiences, there is no shortage of questions nor the waiting that comes along with them. What answers are you waiting for today?

Let's look at just a couple of passages from psalms and job

### **Psalm 42**

*For the director of music. A maskil<sup>[c]</sup> of the Sons of Korah.*

<sup>1</sup>As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. <sup>2</sup>My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? <sup>3</sup>My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, "Where is your God?" <sup>4</sup>These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng.

<sup>5</sup>Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

<sup>6</sup> My soul is downcast within me; therefore I will remember you from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar. <sup>7</sup> Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me.

<sup>8</sup> By day the LORD directs his love, at night his song is with me— a prayer to the God of my life.

<sup>9</sup> I say to God my Rock, “Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy? <sup>10</sup> My bones suffer mortal agony as my foes taunt me, saying to me all day long, “Where is your God?”

<sup>11</sup> Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

### **Psalm 55:1-2 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> Listen to my prayer, O God, do not ignore my plea; <sup>2</sup> hear me and answer me. My thoughts trouble me and I am distraught

### **Job 30:20 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>20</sup> “I cry out to you, God, but you do not answer; I stand up, but you merely look at me.

### **Job 40:6 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup> Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm:

Here are some thoughts to keep in mind when we are waiting for answers...

- Its o.k. to ask, that is part of the process of our spiritual development and relationship with God. Looking for answers forces us to interact with God and get to know him better.
- God's answers may not make sense to us. Remember we said that one of the truths that we need to keep in mind while we wait is What is going on In Spite of us.
- Don't confuse waiting for an answer with waiting for a YES. Sometimes the answer is NO, but because we are waiting only for the answer we want; we treat it as if the answer has not been given. Do you ever tell your kids NO? Does that mean you love them any less? Do you ever find it hard to explain to them the complexity of the answer to their question? And so, you give them a much simpler answer.

- Others will try to answer on God's behalf (like Job's friends) and while those answers may have some bits of truth with them, they are not THE answer that we need from God. God's answers are individually tailored to us.

Here are some answers that God wants us all to hear today, regardless of our questions...

## 1. I am listening

### **1 John 5:14 English Standard Version (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

### **Psalm 66:19 English Standard Version (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

## 2. I am with you

Remember that His name is EMMANUEL which means “God With Us”

I love the encouragement we find in Isaiah 41 and 43 regarding the presence of the Lord with us

### **Isaiah 41:10 English Standard Version (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

### **Isaiah 43:2 English Standard Version (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

### 3. I am acting

Not only is God listening, not only has he promised to be with us; but he is actively working on our behalf

When he healed a lame man at the pool of Bethesda, Jesus was harassed for healing on the sabbath. His response to them tells us something about the nature of our God.

#### **John 5:17 New Living Translation (NLT)**

<sup>17</sup> But Jesus replied, “My Father is always working, and so am I.”

*“God is making things happen for you. Even when you don’t see it, even when you can’t feel it, even if it’s not evident. God is working on your prayers.”*

God instructed Moses to tell the Israelites that He was acting on their behalf

#### **Exodus 6:6-8 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup> “Therefore, say to the Israelites: ‘I am the LORD, and **I will bring you out** from under the yoke of the Egyptians. **I will free you from being slaves** to them, and **I will redeem you** with an outstretched arm and **with mighty acts** of judgment. <sup>7</sup>**I will take you as my own people**, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. <sup>8</sup> And **I will bring you to the land** I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. **I will give it to you** as a possession. I am the LORD.’”

### 4. I am bigger than your questions

We could easily summarize God’s answers to Job’s questions with this thought... I am bigger than your questions. Our questions are so small compared to the greatness of our God.

#### **John 13:7 New Life Version (NLV)**

<sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, “You do not understand now what I am doing but you will later.”

That's why we must learn to ask our questions and then say what Jesus said in the Garden of Gethsemane "Not my will but yours be done" God I know that you are bigger than my questions, I trust that you have a plan.

**Romans 12:2 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**5. I am the answer**

My wife often says... I wish God would just send us an email.

**Jeremiah 33:3 English Standard Version (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.

God has revealed Himself to us. He has given us His word that we might understand who He is. Understanding who God is, is all the answer we need. When we know the power and character of God, we already have our answer.

There's a couple of songs I love to remind myself of when I am looking for answers

**Andrae Crouch's "Jesus Is The Answer"**

*Jesus Is The Answer For The World Today  
Above Him There's No Other Jesus Is The Way  
Jesus Is The Answer For The World Today  
Above Him There's No Other Jesus Is The Way*

*If You Have Some Questions In The Corners Of Your Mind  
And Traces Of Discouragement And Peace You Cannot Find  
Reflections Of The Old Past, They Seem To Face You Everyday  
There's One Thing I Know For Sure That Jesus Is The Way*

*I Know You Got Mountains That You Think You Cannot Climb  
I Know That Your Skies Have Been Dark, You Think The Sun Won't Shine  
In Case You Don't Know*

*I'm Hear To Tell You That The Word Of God Is True  
And Everything That He Promised  
I Tell You He Would Do It For You*

### **Scott Wesley Brown's "When Answers Aren't Enough"**

*You have faced the mountains of desperation  
You have climbed, you have fought, you have won  
But this valley that lies coldly before you Casts a shadow you cannot overcome*

*And just when you thought you had it all together  
You knew every verse to get you through  
But this time the sorrow broke more than just your heart  
And reciting all those verses just won't do*

*When answers aren't enough, there is Jesus  
He is more than just an answer to your prayer  
And your heart will find a safe and peaceful refuge  
When answers aren't enough, He is there*

*Instead of asking why did it happen  
Think of where it can lead you from here  
And as your pain is slowly easing, you can find a greater reason  
To live your life triumphant through the tears*

So much of our time spent waiting for answers is wasted trying to figure out what we don't know, but what if we focused on what we do know about our God.

When God answered Job, He didn't give Job the specific answers to his questions but rather revealed Himself in a powerful way. The more we know who God is and the vastness of His power the more we have answers to our questions.

I believe this is what God did for David as well. In the midst of all his questions God revealed Himself to David. I want you to take a new look at Psalm 23; but this time let's look at it as the answers to all of David's questions...

**Psalm 23 (What an answer from God for all of David's Questions)**

## Psalm 23 English Standard Version (ESV)

# The LORD Is My Shepherd

*A Psalm of David.*

**23** The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>3</sup> He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness<sup>[b]</sup>

for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,<sup>[c]</sup>

I will fear no evil,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,

they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Surely<sup>[d]</sup> goodness and mercy<sup>[e]</sup> shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell<sup>[f]</sup> in the house of the LORD

forever.<sup>[g]</sup>