

SESSION NINE: WAITING ON GOD

We are impatient people: horn-honking, fast-moving culture We don't wait on anything. What word in our story is most frequent

Jesus made them get into a boat immediately, go on ahead of Him immediately. When Peter begins to sink, Jesus reaches for him immediately. The word "immediately" appears 3 times

We hate to wait. Waiting exposes the Disciples. Their fate seems to be in limbo until Jesus appears. He arrives on the 4th watch of night-hours delayed from when they expected him. Hearing of how Jesus Disciples handled delays might've given strange comfort to the 1st readers of Gospel who were facing adversity. Delays affect us the same way.

LIFE'S WAITING ROOM...life is one big waiting room: lines, delays, waiting for bad situations to improve, our bodies to heal, broken relationships to mend. It is telling what waiting does to us and what it says about us. We are downright uptight people-impatient, restless, rude. Impatience is a tell-tale sign of our age.

Question: How does waiting make you feel? Why does God make us wait? If he can do anything, why doesn't he bring relief now?

WHAT WAITING ON GOD MEANS...waiting is a trusted companion: what GOD DOES IN US while we wait is as important as what we wait for. Waiting is our destiny: what it means to be a Creature wait on the Creator. It reminds us: SOMETHING IS HAPPENING even when it seems like NOTHING IS HAPPENING. Faith is learning how to let go/let God.

CALM THE STORM FIRST...after waiting for hours, Peter takes his waiting to a new level. Getting out of the boat, taking his 1st steps, involved a level of trust in Jesus that he'd never known. It would've made Peter's walk easier if Jesus had calmed the winds "immediately" as he did in other situations. There is something to be gained in all waiting.

SUFFERING AND CHARACTER...waiting on God is tough in a crisis-when we need God but don't know where he is. There is a link between suffering and faith. Waiting on God in a crisis can turn into being transformed by God through the crisis. Waiting isn't something we do as we wait to get what we want but a process of becoming what God wants us to be. Our waiting is a choice: a patient, confident, and active choice.

The Issue is: can we wait, will we wait when GOD'S TIMING SEEMS OFF?