

Sermon- 07/30/23

THEME: Who? Me to wait?

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 40: 27-31, Luke 12:35-40.

How many of us can remember life before the internet? To the youths and Sunday school children, I mean when we had to wait for a week or more for a letter that would take days or weeks to arrive or snail mail.¹ It was not like now that a letter through an email would take just seconds to arrive. Today, you type your words as the person miles and miles away waits, and in a moment, they can respond. So, people had more patience, self-control, tolerance, and endurance than we have today. You see, we have become more acquainted with a life where things must happen fast. Talk of microwave food, instant coffee, instant messaging, fast lane on the highway, and instant everything so much that we have little patience for issues requiring waiting. In our busy-busy, get-ahead world, waiting is becoming a waste of time.

In today's scripture lesson, Jesus continues his mission of transforming people. If you go back a bit, from **v22**, he addresses people's worries in life, like food and clothing². He asks them not to be afraid and instead to trust in God. Then when he comes to today's lesson, he shifts to issues about his return and warns them about his sudden return. Using a language that must have been very familiar to a Roman household, he says that blessed is a servant whom the master finds alert. You see, waiting is not easy, but a servant knows it's essential to keep her lamp burning.³ Remember, at that time, the mode of travel was slower than today, and communication was not instant like we have now. You could spend the day or night waiting for the guest until they arrive, hence the need for patience. As Christians, we are called to a journey of faith where we must keep our lamps burning as we look to the coming of our Lord Jesus.

Brothers and sisters, why is waiting so important? Using the example of the servant, God's faithful servants are being reminded to be like the household servants. Indeed, we

all have to adopt the heart, mind, and posture of a servant⁴ if we want to learn patience and perseverance. Like the household servants have a reward for their patience and determination, we too must be alert as we await His return, be ready, and wait patiently. Know that in waiting, God works on us and elevates our faith and trust in him. **Ps 37:34** reminds us that when we wait for the Lord and keep his way, he will exalt us. So, waiting is worthwhile. Whatever you have been waiting for, be patient, my friend, for God will exalt you. Is it a struggling relationship, a persistent health issue, or a spiritual desire you have been praying for? WAIT upon the Lord! Prophet Isaiah in **Isaiah 40:31** tells us that they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;⁵ they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. So, don't get tired of waiting for the Lord, for he will renew your strength when you are tired. Through God's grace, we receive the power and wisdom to wait through God's time because, by our strength, we cannot make it.

Yes! Our waiting may appear waiting for snail mail, but we have a promise of renewal of our inner strength. Let us learn to persevere in our waiting for our prayers to be answered, for the Lord will indeed exalt us. As the lords' servants, let us sore up on the wings of prayer as we look up to his coming again. So, is your lamp lit? Are you alert and patiently waiting? May God renew our strength so that we may not be weary in our waiting for the master, for he is the reason for our waiting. And yes, it is for you and me to wait, and we can by God's grace!

Be patient and wait!

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