

Pastoral Notes

'How much longer Lord?'

John 11:1-6.

Waiting is one of the most difficult things for many of us to do. We are innately impatient, which is why we now live in a fast food, constant change, get it now, pay later, society.

While we have come to accept waiting in lines and wait on the telephone for help and support, we do not expect to have to wait on Jesus to respond to our pleas. Yet, experience has taught us that oftentimes **we will have to wait it out while Jesus is working it out.**

Key Sermonic Points

1. *God prioritizes prayer based on the END result*
2. *Those Jesus loves most sometimes have to wait*
3. *Delayed does not mean denied*

Have you ever had to wait on Jesus? Have you ever wondered why he doesn't seem to answer you right away? **Know that you are not alone because we learn from the story of Lazarus that those Jesus loves sometimes have to wait. It's not that Jesus doesn't hear you or can't help you, it is often because he knows your end result is not as bad as you think it is.**

Imagine how people there are in hospitals, nursing homes or in the streets, that are worse off than you, who are also crying out to Jesus for help. God may be prioritizing their prayer over yours because their circumstances are much worse.

God wants us to build our trust faith and character. Waiting is one way we can do that.

While our bodies are created to be pain averse, all of us will experience some form of pain until we go home to glory. **Our challenge is not knowing how much longer we need to tolerate it before Jesus comes to our rescue.**

One thing I can promise is that, **if you stay faithful in your prayer life, Jesus will show up on time,** Waiting is a virtue, but we are told in Isa 40:31 '**they that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength**'. Waiting doesn't weaken a Christian, it helps to

strengthen them.

Think about changing your question from 'how long' to 'how soon'. Ask God how soon is he coming. I believe it won't be much longer. **Just as Jesus brought Lazarus out of the grave, he can bring you out of whatever you are going through.**

This message can be obtained by visiting our website, or through purchase of a CD.

Stay Blessed,
Pastor Robbie

Nuggets:

- It only takes a little faith to please a big God
- No person or need is too small to bring before the Lord.
- Just because God's response is delayed it does not mean that it has been denied.
- When it comes to the miracles of God, he gets the glory but you get to tell your story.