

Remnant Life Church
November 8, 2020
The Necessity of Waiting on God
Genesis 39:1-6; 20-23

2020 has been a year of the extreme (and it is not over yet)

- A health event that has raised more questions than it has provided answers
 - The zenith of four years of political unrest unlike any other in our history
 - The continued erosion of our moral and family values
 - Now an electoral process that has proven to be fraught with inconsistencies and loopholes that are getting wider and wider
 - Now we must wait
 - All of us
 - But should a Christian approach waiting differently
- This morning I think the message needs to be one of hope in the waiting
- Why?
- Because we serve a God of hope
 - Hope for a future in and with Him
 - Hope for His presence in the times of uncertainty

Human nature (the flesh) does not embrace waiting

- The flesh is selfish
- It is not something that needs to be taught
 - My grandson is 20 months old and he wants what he wants
 - Things my 2 brothers and I never said...
 - “No, no, I insist! You have the last piece of cake.”
 - “Please, you sit in the front seat again! I’ll sit on the hump in the back”
 - “When mom comes home, I’ll take the blame.”

I want us to look this morning at a man in the OT who forced to endure a time of waiting

- But he did it with a hope that changed his circumstances
- He waited on God

READ - Genesis 39:1-6; 20-23

What did Joseph do in his time of waiting that set him apart?

- Length of time should not determine your willingness or capability to wait
- Joseph was taken into captivity at the age of 17 and was promoted to the 2nd most powerful man in Egypt at the age of 30
 - 13 years

His countenance or demeanor was right throughout the entire time

- He found favor not only in the eyes of God but in the eyes of man (Potiphar and the jailer)
- “In the eyes (sight of)”
 - Original language *ah-yin* same word used to describe something in the center of; like a fountain in a garden or landscape
 - “I’ve got my eye on you” means you are at the center of my focus
 - In your time of waiting and hoping, what is the center of your focus?
 - Do people immediately know what is going on with you by how you look, talk and act? (both in the positive/negative)

He demonstrated an ability to handle responsibility meaning he was always doing his best

- Have you ever given a half-hearted effort when it was not something you thought was right or fair?
- **Col 3:23** – *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord, not for men.*
- Your efforts (all done in the service of God) should always be your best

He continued at this high level to the point that neither Potiphar nor the jailer even watched over him (v. 6)

- IOW, he proved trustworthy – did not seek revenge
- Living your life for Jesus means that you do it to the best of your ability every time not just when you feel like it or when someone is watching
- Many believe that we only do our best when we can be seen
- Promise Keepers – founded and quickly grew in the ‘90s
 - Integrity – (def) a firm adherence to a moral code
 - “It is what you do when you are alone”
 - How do you treat others when you are frustrated over your circumstances or are forced to wait?
 - This is the time to demonstrate love in action
 - **Rom 12:10-12** - *Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.*

What steps can we take during our time of waiting in order to grow and glorify God like Joseph did?

- In looking at these next steps they all have one thing in common. There are choices in each of them.
- We need to get into our hearts and minds the truth that we have a choice to respond when waiting in hope
 - Repeat these words after me – “I Have a Choice”
 - When I ask you to say it, repeat those words

- What should we be doing right now?

1. Accept the place you are – for now

- Accepting your circumstances does not mean you have given up
- It does often mean you stop living in denial
 - Joseph had to face reality
 - But he still wanted his situation to change
- When you accept where you are your perspective changes
- Rather than a hindrance you can begin to see opportunity for learning, maturing, and growth
- It can completely change your outlook
- SAY IT

2. Own your part of it

- What do I need to learn through this time?
- Is there something in my life that is keeping me here longer than I need to be?
- Am I contributing to my difficult circumstances?
 - Perhaps not the physical ones
 - But my emotional, and spiritual condition
- Many people deny they are responsible for anything negative in their lives
- SAY IT

3. Focus on others not just on your situation

- How long could you go without talking to someone about the circumstances?
- SAY IT
- (Analogy of the headlights) – we become blinded when we only shine the light on ourselves

4. Look for the best in spite of the circumstances

- This is not meant to deny reality
- Joseph made the best of his situation – But I know didn't like it
- Focusing only on the negative will blind you to anything positive
- SAY IT

One more choice regarding this condition of our nation this morning

- What track will you choose to follow moving forward?
- The track of the world or
- The track of the Father
- The track of this world is governed by the prince of the air – satan
 - It is one that is continually feeding your mind and spirit the negative of all things
 - Break from talking about it, reading about it, and watching it
- The track you choose will dictate how you live in this time
 - Either in fear, dread, anger, darkness, confusion, and anxiety
 - Or in peace, truth, light, joy, comfort, and hope