

THE WISDOM OF WAITING

THE DIFFICULTY OF WAITING ON THE LORD

- Waiting on God is never easy...and often seems impossible...it is harder than we realize or care to admit
- Most of us don't enjoy waiting for anything...we have an internal sense of how long things should take...and when this is challenged or when our expectations go unmet, we experience a rising level of tension
- Waiting feels like an indefinite gap in time that's at best an inconvenience and at worst frustrating
- Most of us have a negative view of extended periods of waiting (think waiting in line at the DMV, waiting for test results, being stuck in traffic, waiting for a broken relationship to be restored, waiting and praying for a lost family member to be saved, waiting for a piece of mail to arrive, waiting to be married or have children, etc.)
- Waiting isn't valued in our culture...it often seems like a waste...for a variety of reasons

We are Naturally Impatient People

- We want things to happen in our own timing, according to our plans
- Patience does not typically come easily to us as our flesh craves the fulfillment of its desires immediately
- Delay in our demands and desires being met only fuels dissatisfaction and discontentment
- In the context of trials, the agony of waiting not only lies in the existence of the pain itself but also in the unknown duration that we are forced to endure it

We Live in an Instant World

- We live in a fast-paced, instant-answer, and quick-results culture that demands everything now: instant coffee...instant messaging...instant replay...on demand streaming services...the ability to buy anything online with immediate delivery options like Amazon Prime
- Our culture is one of instant gratification, instant information, and instant satisfaction...efficiency and immediacy are paramount in our society
- "Why wait? Get it now! This is the world we live in. Transportation has changed our expectations. The distance Lewis and Clark covered in two years and two months can now be covered in six hours. We live in an era of bullet trains, supersonic jets, and Wikipedia. We have fast food, fast cars, fast service, and microwave ovens...We love instant things. We hate waiting. The world around us is captivated and cultivated by instantaneous satisfaction. We want what we want and we want it now. If somebody cannot deliver it as fast as we want it, they have somehow violated our rights."¹
- "Some years ago, executives at a Houston airport faced a troubling customer-relations issue. Passengers were lodging an inordinate number of complaints about the long waits at baggage claim. In response, the executives increased the number of baggage handlers working that shift. The plan worked: the average wait fell to eight minutes, well within industry benchmarks. But the complaints persisted. Puzzled, the airport executives undertook a more careful, on-site analysis. They found that it took passengers a minute to walk from their arrival gates to baggage claim and seven more minutes to get their bags. Roughly 88 percent of their time, in other words, was spent standing around waiting for their bags. So the airport decided on a new approach: instead of reducing wait times, it moved the arrival gates away from the main terminal and routed bags to the outermost carousel. Passengers now had to walk six times longer to get their bags. Complaints dropped to near zero."²

¹ Smedly Yates, *Wait: Waiting on God in a World that Won't Wait*, 14.

² New York Times article "Why Waiting in Lines is Torture," August 18, 2012.

We Often Don't Receive Immediate Answers to Our Prayers

- Sometimes our prayers are answered immediately, encouraging our trust and confidence in the Lord; however, often the Lord delays answering our prayers, causing us to wonder whether the Lord is really listening to us
- “During seasons of prolonged waiting, it may seem that we’re calling for rescue from God whose only answer is the silence that makes us feel more alone.”³
- Consequences result when we fail to properly depend and wait on the Lord
- When we push ahead impulsively in our own strength and timing, we typically fail miserably because there is usually a connection between our failure to wait and misplaced desires

Psalm 106:13-14 ~ They quickly forgot His works; They did not wait for His counsel, 14 But craved intensely in the wilderness, And tempted God in the desert.

- There are numerous biblical examples of this:
 - Abraham (Genesis 16:1-2) – rather than waiting on God and his timing concerning the promise of an heir, he and Sarah unwisely took matters into their own hands; he slept with Hagar, Sara’s maidservant, to secure the heir God promised, and Ishmael was the result
 - Moses (Exodus 2) – although he understood that he was God’s chosen leader to rescue the Jews out of Egypt, he didn’t wait on God’s timing and instead murdered an Egyptian oppressor resulting in him living in exile for 40 years
 - The Israelites after Exodus (Exodus 14:11-14) – they were caught between the advancing Egyptian army and the impassable Red Sea; hence they grumbled against Moses for taking them to the wilderness to die
 - The Israelites at the base of Mt. Sinai (Exodus 32:1-4) – they got tired of waiting for Moses to come down the mountain after receiving the 10 Commandments; so Aaron convinced them to make a golden calf
 - Saul (1 Samuel 13) – he offered the burnt offering himself instead of waiting for Samuel to do so, justifying his decision by claiming the people were scattering and the Philistines were threatening
- These examples demonstrate the tendency of the human heart to fill the gaps in life with spiritually unhelpful responses that dishonor the Lord and result in harmful consequences
- Waiting is seen as an evil to eliminate from our lives rather than a virtue to cultivate...and when that happens a failure to wait can lead to terrible choices
- When stress or pain from trials is added to the mix, our tendency is to fill those waiting periods with fear, anxiety, frustration, or anger...panic usually results in sinful responses to the trials of life
- “When we exert our control over God’s timing, we fail to submit to His sovereign flight plan. Our attempt to escape the wait will not only fail, but we will make it worse by adding suffering on top of it. Our job is not to demand its cessation, but to allow Him to mold our character through its pressure.”⁴
- “The sheer number of hard waits we will face in our lifetime presents both the challenge and the opportunity of growing in virtue, of growing in Christlikeness.”⁵
- There are seasons of life that make waiting on the Lord particularly more difficult:
 - Uncertainty
 - Delays
 - Disappointment
 - Trials
 - Powerlessness

³ <https://ca.thegospelcoalition.org/article/when-waiting-is-hard/>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Foreword to Mark Vroegop, *Waiting Isn't a Waste: The Surprising Comfort of Trusting God in the Uncertainties of Life*

THE MEANING OF WAITING ON THE LORD

- Waiting is a not only a normal part of the world we live in, it is also to be a normal part of the Christian life
- As believers, we have been designed by God to wait...it is part of a Christian's DNA...we have been rescued and programmed to wait
- As hard as it is, waiting on God ought to define us

Psalm 147:11 ~ The LORD favors those who fear Him, Those who wait for His lovingkindness.

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 ~ For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

Hebrews 9:27-28 ~ And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, 28 so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

- What does it mean to wait? → a common thread in all the OT words ("wait") and NT words ("wait, anxious longing, endure, hope") for "waiting" is looking for something or someone with eager expectation
- A common element in each of these words is time...faith over time...often waiting involves years or even decades...or perhaps we wait until we get to heaven
- Regardless of the length of time, eventually God will fulfill his promise of faithfulness to us...so we don't demand answers on our timetable...but instead we watch and wait on him for the answer
- To wait on the Lord is to move forward in faith toward the things God has promised
- "Waiting on God is living on what I know to be true about God when I don't know what's true about my life."⁶
- "...waiting on God is not just doing nothing. Waiting on God is faith expressed in persevering obedience while trusting God to work all things according to His perfect plan in His perfect time; or put mathematically, waiting on God is trust multiplied by time."⁷
- "Biblical waiting is not passive resignation to the inevitable. 'God's going to do what He's going to do, so I might as well sit down and wait for Him to do it.' No, waiting is an expectant looking to God. It is not merely waiting to see what happens, but by faith, having confidence that God will answer and show His faithfulness to you...Faith looks to God and patiently waits for Him to act on His timetable. Faith says reverently, 'God, You're in charge here. I don't understand, but I'll wait. I know You'll bless that persistent faith in the end.' You trust God with patient endurance in the confident hope that He will eventually act decisively to deliver you."⁸
- "So what are we waiting for? We wait for resolution from conflict. We wait for vindication of wrongs. We wait for justice to be done. We wait for world peace. We wait for a kingdom. We wait for things that don't rust and aren't stolen. Some of us wait eagerly for new bodies. We wait for the end of sin. We wait until death is no more, sorrow is no more, and pain is no more. We wait until those old things pass, giving way to a new heaven, a new earth, and a new way of things. But more than all of these things, the people of God in the Bible waited for God. If you wait for Him, all these things shall be added to you. He is our treasure. He is the One for whom we wait. He is the One we eagerly expect. He is the One we long for. Christian, if your heart is not set on Him, you will be tossed around by your circumstances. You will be fearful about the future. You will wonder what lies ahead, and you will fret about what is coming because you cannot control it. However, if you wait for Him, your circumstances may never change, but your heart will."⁹

⁶ Vroegop, *Waiting Isn't a Waste*

⁷ Yates, *Wait*, 11.

⁸ Don Green, *Trusting God in Trying Times*, 80.

⁹ Yates, *Wait*, 27-28.

- Waiting is crucial for the believer because it provides us an opportunity for faith, an opportunity to place our hope in God and look to him
- What we turn to in those gaps reveals what or who our refuge is
- “Waiting on God, in part, is the opposite of complaining. It is embracing my circumstances as coming from God. It is to accept my circumstances without becoming suspicious about God’s character, His ability, or His intentions. To wait on God is to trust Him when my circumstances do not change, to trust His goodness, His power, His promises, and His purposes. Everybody waits. Not everybody waits well, and not everybody waits on God. Much of God’s good work in our lives will be accomplished only in difficult circumstances that force us to wait on Him. As hard as waiting is, it is also rewarding, because waiting on God well brings us to Him. The reward of waiting is not the promise of a changed circumstance; it is not the promise of a better life now. The reward of waiting is the promise of God Himself, and that is better than anything we can receive.”¹⁰

THE EXAMPLES OF WAITING ON THE LORD

OT Saints Who Waited

- Adam waited for a wife (notice the word “now” in Gen 2:23)
- Job waited for years for God to reveal himself, redeem his broken life, and bless his latter days
- Abraham waited nearly 25 years for God to provide an heir (God promised him descendants in Gen 12:1-3 ...but he was 86 when Ishmael was born and 99 when Isaac was born)
- Joseph waited in a pit, waited in a prison for two years for a crime he didn’t commit, and waited almost 20 years to see his family again after being betrayed by his brothers
- The nation of Israel waited on the Lord daily for manna (“you don’t buy manna in bulk”)...and they waited 40 years in the wilderness wanderings for that current generation to die off (Deut 2:14-18)
- Moses waited 40 years in the desert for God to direct his life
- Hannah waited years for an answer to her prayers for a child
- David became king 14 years after Samuel anointed him
- Daniel waited 70 years as a hostage in Babylon

NT Saints Who Waited

- Zacharias and Elizabeth waited for a baby
- Simeon had been waiting for “the consolation of Israel” (Luke 2:25)
- Anna had been “looking for the redemption of Jerusalem” (Luke 2:36-28)

¹⁰ Ibid., 30-31.

- John the Baptist and Jesus waited almost 30 years to launch their public ministries
- Many of the people who were healed by Jesus during his earthly ministry waited for years with debilitating sickness and illness
 - A woman had been bent double for 18 years (Luke 13:10-17)
 - A man had been lame for 38 years before Jesus healed him (John 5:5)
 - A woman suffered regular hemorrhaging for 12 years before she was healed (Matt 9:20-22)
 - The man born blind in John 9 endured that condition until Jesus restored his vision
 - A father's heart ached for years as he watched his son suffer from demonic oppression (Mark 9:20-22)
- The disciples had to wait between Jesus' resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4)
- Paul waited in jail in Caesarea for two years (Acts 24:26-27), waited in prison in Rome during his first imprisonment, and waited in prison in Rome in his second imprisonment
- Paul also expressed his longing to be "clothed with our dwelling from heaven" (2 Cor 5:2) as he desired to be with Christ (Phil 1:21-24)
- Creation is presently longing for "the revealing of the sons of God...[when it will] be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God" (Rom 8:19-21)
- The dead in Christ wait for their resurrection bodies (1 Cor 15:50-52; 1 Thess 4:13-18)
- "Being in the presence of Jesus without a physical body, with no more sin and no more struggle, having entered eternal rest at home with Him, is something every believer should joyfully anticipate (Philippians 1:23). That state, even without a physical body, is better than this one. And yet, there is more to look forward to even than this. Even in heaven there is waiting. The dead in Christ wait for the resurrection, when their immaterial selves will be joined to a glorious, material resurrection body, a body no longer subject to corruption, decay, or disease. This new state will reflect Jesus and bring glory to the triune God! For this the dead in Christ wait still."¹¹
- Even those in the Millennial kingdom will wait...it will be a glorious day when Christ returns and establishes his reign on earth in fulfillment of the many promises in the OT
- When that happens, the nations will beat their swords into plowshares, animal predation will cease, and the peoples of the world will stream to Jerusalem to worship Christ the king as he sits on David's throne ruling the nations with a rod of iron
- However, even those in that kingdom will wait because there will still be mortality and there will still be sin
- God's people in that time will be waiting for the perfection of the eternal state
- "It can be disillusioning to have godly purposes lie seemingly unheard within us. Yet we can be encouraged to know that the pressure of waiting is appointed by God and a normal part of the Christian experience – it serves to shape our character to better know and reflect Christ's beauty. Submitting willingly to its process declares that our chief aim is not happiness but the glory of God. So let's prepare for seasons of prolonged waiting instead of bucking wildly against them when they arrive. Collectively, God is weaving our lives into the much grander storyline of humanity. Personally, He wants to draw near to us and give us His comfort and strength. If we posture ourselves to rest on His wings during the wait, He will glide our souls straight into the embrace of Christ Himself to love and transform us to the glory of God."¹²

¹¹ Ibid., 47.

¹² <https://ca.thegospelcoalition.org/article/when-waiting-is-hard/>

THE OBJECTS OF WAITING ON THE LORD

The Lord Himself

Psalm 25:3 ~ Indeed, none of those who wait for You will be ashamed; Those who deal treacherously without cause will be ashamed.

Psalm 27:11-14 ~ Teach me Your way, O LORD, And lead me in a level path Because of my foes. 12 Do not deliver me over to the desire of my adversaries, For false witnesses have risen against me, And such as breathe out violence. 13 I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living. 14 Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD.

Psalm 33:20 ~ Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield.

Psalm 40:1 ~ I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me and heard my cry.

Psalm 62:1, 5 ~ My soul waits in silence for God only; From Him is my salvation...5 My soul, wait in silence for God only, For my hope is from Him.

Psalm 69:3 ~ I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched; My eyes fail while I wait for my God.

Psalm 130:5, 6 ~ I wait for the LORD, my soul does wait, And in His word do I hope...6 My soul waits for the Lord More than the watchmen for the morning; Indeed, more than the watchmen for the morning.

Lamentations 3:25 ~ The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the person who seeks Him.

Isaiah 40:27-31 ~ Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, And the justice due me escapes the notice of my God”? 28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. 29 He gives strength to the weary, And to him who lacks might He increases power. 30 Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, 31 Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.

Isaiah 64:4 ~ For from days of old they have not heard or perceived by ear, Nor has the eye seen a God besides You, Who acts in behalf of the one who waits for Him.

Christ's Return

Titus 2:13 ~ looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

James 5:7-8 ~ Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. 8 You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

2 Peter 3:12 ~ looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

Jude 21 ~ keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

Our Adoption as Sons

Romans 8:23 ~ And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

Philippians 3:20-21 ~ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; 21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

God's Judgment

Proverbs 20:22 ~ Do not say, "I will repay evil"; Wait for the LORD, and He will save you.

Revelation 20:11-15 ~ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

- "Waiting on God means, in part, setting aside our desire to mete out retribution. Waiting on God when we are wronged by others means trusting God's righteous assessment and His perfect timing. The contemplation of hell ought to produce compassion toward sinners and thankfulness for our own rescue. I am convinced that we do not think of hell often enough. If our hearts were regularly saturated with the awfulness of coming judgment, we would be far less concerned with how we have been offended, and far more concerned to preach the gospel to offenders rushing headlong into eternal punishment. Maintaining a correct perspective on coming judgment will fuel our compassion for others and our faith in God's plan as we wait for Him to make all things right."¹³

THE PRACTICE OF WAITING ON THE LORD

Psalm 37:1-7 ~ Do not fret because of evildoers, Be not envious toward wrongdoers. 2 For they will wither quickly like the grass And fade like the green herb. 3 Trust in the LORD and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. 4 Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart. 5 Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it. 6 He will bring forth your righteousness as the light And your judgment as the noonday. 7 Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who carries out wicked schemes.

- In this Psalm, David is surrounded by people who do not love God but seem to have everything they want ...and David's life is not going the way he thinks it should go
- In the opening verses, he provides us with a glimpse into what waiting on the Lord practically looks like¹⁴

Take the Long View of Circumstances

Psalm 37:1-2 ~ Do not fret because of evildoers, Be not envious toward wrongdoers. 2 For they will wither quickly like the grass And fade like the green herb.

- When the wicked seem to flourish, David tells us to look ahead when the Lord will remedy every situation
- He is speaking of the importance of delayed gratification: "Impatience is all well and good for the unbeliever, but the Christian faith is, by definition, one of delayed gratification. The children of God are, and always have been, called upon to wait. We wait for God's kingdom to come in fullness, but our waiting is distinctly different from that of the unbeliever. No white-knuckled, jaw-clenched waiting will do for those whose hope is anchored in the bedrock of the finished work of Christ. The enthusiastic expression "I can't wait" is captured in the maranatha cry of Revelation 22:20, but heaven help us if the citizens of the kingdom of heaven quite literally cannot wait during this life. Patience is the fourth virtue listed in the fruit of the Spirit. If we are progressively being sanctified, we should expect to see it grow in our lives."¹⁵

¹³ Yates, *Wait*, 121-122.

¹⁴ Adapted from Yates, *Wait*, 53-70.

¹⁵ Vroegop, *Waiting Isn't a Waste*

Trust God and His Plan

Psalm 37:3 ~Trust in the LORD and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness.

- When facing trying times, our tendency is to escape from them or find a solution to them...but David gives four instructions:
 - Trust in the Lord – trust in Yahweh, the self-existent, covenant-keeping God of Israel who enters into personal relationship with his people
 - Do good – be obedient and willing to follow God’s direction
 - Dwell in the land – trust where the Lord currently has you
 - Cultivate faithfulness – serve the Lord faithfully and let him take care of the results
- “The aim of this text is to encourage God’s people to trust God’s plan. Waiting on God is trust multiplied by time. Do you possess that capacity? Do you have the discipline in your life to rest in the situation in which God has placed you? Is it a discipline that you have cultivated? Do you know Yahweh well enough to trust Him? You and I are not the nation of Israel; we do not live in the land and are not ruled by King David. But there is a principle here for us. God is our God, and He has a plan for our good and for His glory. Dwell where God has placed you, content with the good He has provided for you.”¹⁶

Delight in God

Psalm 37:4 ~ Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart.

- David gives both a command and a promise here
- To delight ourselves in the Lord is to desire, pursue, and treasure him
- When we do that, we will have our heart’s desires because we will want what he wants!
- This is not a promise that if we get this delight-in-God thing right, we can get whatever we want
- It is a promise of so much more...that we will be enjoying God and having our affections and desires brought in line with what he wants for us

Turn Your Life Over Entirely to God

Psalm 37:5-6 ~ Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it. 6 He will bring forth your righteousness as the light And your judgment as the noonday.

- Surrender entirely to God’s will and ways for your life...bring your life entirely under the direction of his Word...be willing to relinquish control over the direction, priorities, and plans of your life
- And then watch what he does and how he works and where he takes you

Wait on God

Psalm 37:7 ~ Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who carries out wicked schemes.

- Rest in the Lord, lean on him, and patiently watch what he has in store for you

¹⁶ Yates, *Wait*, 61-62.

- “Waiting on God isn’t about the suspension of meaning and purpose. It’s part of the meaning and purpose that God has brought into my life. Waiting on God isn’t to be viewed as an obstruction in the way of the plan. Waiting is an essential part of the plan. For the child of God, waiting isn’t simply about what I’ll receive at the end of my wait. No, waiting is much more purposeful, efficient, and practical than that. Waiting is fundamentally about what I’ll become as I wait. God is using the wait to do in me and through me exactly what He’s promised. Through the wait He’s changing me. By means of the wait He’s altering the fabric of my thoughts and desires. Through the way He’s causing me to see and experience new things about Him and His kingdom. And all of this sharpens me, enabling me to be a more useful tool in His redemptive hands.”¹⁷
- What are we to do while we wait? → We are to busy ourselves in the work of trusting the Lord and faithfully fulfilling all that he has given us to do until he returns

Luke 12:35-38 ~ Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps lit. 36 Be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that they may immediately open the door to him when he comes and knocks. 37 Blessed are those slaves whom the master will find on the alert when he comes; truly I say to you, that he will gird himself to serve, and have them recline at the table, and will come up and wait on them. 38 Whether he comes in the second watch, or even in the third, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

Luke 12:39-40 ~ But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have allowed his house to be broken into. 40 You too, be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect.

Luke 12:41-48 ~ Peter said, “Lord, are You addressing this parable to us, or to everyone else as well?” 42 And the Lord said, “Who then is the faithful and sensible steward, whom his master will put in charge of his servants, to give them their rations at the proper time? 43 Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. 44 Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions. 45 But if that slave says in his heart, ‘My master will be a long time in coming,’ and begins to beat the slaves, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk; 46 the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and assign him a place with the unbelievers. 47 And that slave who knew his master’s will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, will receive many lashes, 48 but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few. From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.

- Clearly from these parables, waiting for Jesus is not merely twiddling our thumbs or kicking back and doing nothing
- Faithfully waiting on the Lord involves daily trusting him, mortifying sin, preaching truth to ourselves, and discharging the many responsibilities he has given us in this life in service to him and others
- “Waiting is not inactivity. Waiting is an attitude, a posture. You can be very busy and have a waiting disposition. It is an attitude of trust, anticipation, hope, longing, obedience, faith, endurance, and confidence. We rest in God, and we trust His plan. Such trust results in urgent obedience, because we want to be found pleasing to our Master when He returns.”¹⁸

¹⁷ Paul Tripp, *A Shelter in The Storm: Meditations on God and Trouble*, 143.

¹⁸ Yates, *Wait*, 78.