

The Waiting Place

Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 12:35-48



Big Idea

The people of God have always had to wait. But it's never been easy. In this text we see that this waiting is necessary, full of desire for God, marked by love for others, and granted a glorious end.

(1) Its Necessity

Waiting is unpopular, but it is certainly biblical. Waiting, in its biblical sense, is a faithful recognition of both who we are and who God is, and a humble acceptance of our current place in His unfolding plan. It is a full admission that we cannot work our own redemption and a full expectation that God, in His time, will. And, hence, it is necessary.

(2) Its Yearning

This is waiting in hope, waiting with expectancy. It's a waiting that corresponds with longing. It's waiting like the groom waiting at the altar for his bride to come walking down the aisle. It's waiting like my kids wait by the window for grandma and grandpa to arrive. It's waiting like children through the month of December wait for Christmas day.

In vv. 35-36 we are told to dress ourselves for serving Him, but then here now in v. 37 He arrives and what do we find but that He is now dressing Himself to serve us. It is an astounding thing. Masters don't serve their servants. That's why they're called servants. "You're here to serve Me!" But our God comes and serves us. The idea that Jesus would seat and serve us around His table, as undeserved and unexpected as it is, follows naturally from the kind of life He lived and death He died. It's always been in service of us. What love is this?! When you start to get this and all that it means for you, you start to yearn for Him and His return.

(3) Its Activity

This waiting is also full of energy and marked by noticeable activity. When we bring vv. 35 and 42 together, we see that this waiting involves faithful obedience and self-sacrificial service in love for God and neighbor. It is not sitting and looking out the window or up at the sky. Far from it. It is getting down on one's hands and knees with the Savior and washing dirty feet, it is putting food in the mouths of the hungry, it is humbly serving those whom the Lord has put in our path and under our care.

(4) Its End

God is not quick to judge, but reluctant. The reason why His return is stretching into the second and third watches of the night is not because He is slow or lazy, but because He is gracious and wants for no man to perish but for all to come repentance. Jesus is there on the cross, stalling the day of judgment for us, holding back the firestorm of God's wrath, as it were. And He's calling to us.



Reflection Questions

- How do you feel about waiting? Describe a recent encounter and how you handled it. I assume most of us find it unpleasing, but have you ever experienced some of the blessing that comes from it? Explain.
- Why would God make us wait? What good does it do for us? Describe a time you gave up on waiting for the Lord. How did your efforts to make things better only make things worse?
- Would you say that you are yearning for Christ's return? Why or why not? If not, has there ever been a time that you were more so? Why do you think this was? What's changed? What can you do this week to stir your affections for Him?