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"Trusting that God is working when it seems like He is Silent"

This week - Trusting that God is working when it seems like He is silent. How every Christian can discover hope, purpose and faith in the waiting.

Luke 24:13-21 (NIV) 13 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. 15 As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; 16 but they were kept from recognizing him. 17 He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. 18 One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" 19 "What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. 20 The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; 21 but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place.

- The disciples were discussing their Thursday and Friday while still living in their Saturday.
- Jesus heard the disciples in their waiting.
- They were stuck in their tunnel vision.
- The disciples were confused and let down, they had lost perspective, they had forgotten Jesus' promises while waiting.

The wait can be weighty

When we think God is silent, when we wait for a *breakthrough* in a given circumstance, we can experience all kinds of thoughts and emotions that weigh heavy on us.

- The distress and sorrow Jesus felt in the garden. (Luke 22:44)

Matthew 26:39 (NIV) "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

- The disciples experienced grief, the loss of their long awaited Messiah, a great friend in Jesus and their position as His disciples.

Psalms 34:18 (NIV) The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

- They experienced doubt. What would happen next, following the crucifixion?

Matthew 11:2-3 (NIV) When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples 3 to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

- They experienced fear, Satan's lies and their unmet expectations.

Isaiah 41:10 (NIV) So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

- God knows we will experience fear. He wants us to turn to Him with it!

The wait produces something

- This is difficult because of our fast paced microwave culture.

Isaiah 40:31 (ESV) but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

- Strength = power given by God to the weak who pursue Him - not passive

- The Lord gives us strength to move forward with God - to persevere
- This strength enables us to see things from God's perspective. Perspective from above.

Romans 5:1-5 (NIV) Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

- Suffering is not sitting in traffic or a line at the grocery store.
- Perseverance = Endurance and patience.
- Character is revealed during and after being tested.
- Hope = expectation, trust, confidence.

The wait is worth the wait

Romans 8:18 (NIV) I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

- When you wait for the Lord, you're placing your safety in the hands of One whose power is *immeasurable*. Ephesians 3:20
- When you wait for the Lord, you're finding your comfort in One whose *love is boundless*. Eph.3:18
- When you wait for the Lord, you can be secure in the reality that *he rules over all things*. Psalm 103:19
- When you wait for the Lord, you can live with confidence because you know that every one of *his promises are true*. Hebrews 10:23
- When you wait for the Lord, you can be hopeful even in weakness because you know that his *grace is sufficient*. 2 Corinthians 12:9 (Paul Tripp)

Ways to wait:

- Pray - wisdom, peace, perspective
- Praise God - Read Psalm 34
- Press into Community for encouragement, perspective and support - Hebrews 3:12
- Persevere - 'keep your hands on the plow' - James 1:12

Psalm 27:14 (NIV) Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

Psalm 23:4-6 (NIV) The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, 3 he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Small Group Discussion Questions:

- Are you in a current season of waiting or feeling God is silent? If so, why?
- How well do you persevere in hard circumstances? What might make persevering easier for you?
- Read Ps. 23 aloud. What helped the Psalmist persevere in this Psalm? Do you have the same level of trust as expressed therein?
- How might an attitude adjustment help you in your waiting? Describe what that might look like.



Sample Small Group Questions
<https://bit.ly/GroupDiscussionQuestions>



The Overtime Podcast
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