



Sunday, November 4, 2018
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Job 14:14

When we face trials, often the hardest part is waiting for relief or resolution. Sometimes the waiting in itself is the trial. We have all known or been the people Pastor Don described at the beginning of his sermon. The childless couple waiting for God to give them a child. The single person waiting for God to bring them a mate. The lonely person waiting to belong. The person with chronic pain waiting for relief. The person in hospice care waiting to die. Often it is in the midst of these seasons of waiting that the pain screams the loudest and it can be difficult to hear the voice of God. Thankfully, God is always speaking to us in His word and we need not go far to hear from Him and have our faith and hope reinforced.

As one commentator said, Job is not a book for armchair theologians, but wheelchair theologians. The questions asked by the person in the armchair may sound similar to the questions asked by the person in the wheelchair, but there is a gravity to the latter that the former can't know. And so, when we are in these seasons of waiting, let us go to God and receive words of hope. And when we have friends and family in these seasons, let us be people who offer them words of hope.

Context

This represents the last of Job's responses to the first "cycle" of conversations with his friends. By this time, Job is weary of the counsel of his friends, but he has not lost hope. This is the part of the book many people find repetitive, yet it is important to remember that many of the thoughts and conversations that people have in the midst of suffering play on repeat as well. As we learn to stick it out with Job and really listen to him, we will learn how to better serve the people in our lives who face acute suffering and how to endure that same suffering ourselves.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Job 11:7, 12:9-10, 13:15, 14:1, 14:10, 14:14, 23:10

“The Waiting Game”

Key Ideas

- 1) Most of the waiting we have to “endure” is inconsequential, but there are much more acute seasons of waiting.
- 2) The two key virtues necessary for waiting well are humility and hope.
- 3) Waiting has little to do with time and everything to do with hope.
- 4) No matter what our circumstances may be, in the end, God will be vindicated.
- 5) In spiritual warfare, waiting is part of the fight.
- 6) Waiting is not passive, but active obedience to God.
- 7) God says to us (in effect), “Please be patient, I’m not finished with you yet.”

Discuss

- 1) Why is it so difficult for us to come to grips with the fact that God has either authored or allowed the trials we face?
- 2) What have been some of the more difficult seasons of “waiting” in your life? Or someone close to you?
- 3) What did God reveal to you about your character in that time? And how did He refine you through it?
- 4) What is the God-given hope that ought to sustain us through our seasons of suffering and waiting?
- 5) Who is someone in your life that is in a season of waiting on God? How can you be an encouragement to them this week?