

What are you waiting for?

WEEK 3

What is He waiting for?

Key Terms

Kindness

Obedience

Compassion

Hospitality

Key Verses

Matthew 1:18-19

Genesis 18

Matthew 10:5-10

Phillipians 2:5-8

The last 2 weeks we have been talking about what we are waiting for. Whether we are sitting in hesitation or waiting for the right conditions to step in and step up.

Last week you were challenged to think of one thing that you could do (action) that would (literally or symbolically) represent letting go of control.

One of the areas that this was so effective for me was when I tithed. I would do the bills and when I got to the end of those bills I would remember that I still needed to tithe. And reluctantly I would give 10% and sometimes I wouldn't give 10%. I decided that before I sat down to do our bills, I would begin by tithing. So before I did any of the math, I gave 10%, then I would do the bills. And every single time, when I was finished with the bills, I could not believe that there was still enough in the account. I mean, I would even go through the numbers again assuming I made a mistake and forgot something along the way, but every time it was correct.





Have you ever stopped and wondered “what is God waiting for?” So often we approach our belief and our devotion to God out of what we want short-term (I want a better today) or long-term benefits (I want to make it into heaven).

What if we read scripture looking for what God wants instead of what we want? This is the last meeting of the year and you have an opportunity to think differently as you enter this new year, but statistics would predict that you won't. They would tell us that you will probably do what you have always done. It is the path of least resistance after all, fulfilling our desires rather than God's will. But what if you didn't???

Let's look at some examples of this in scripture:

Story of Joseph

Read Matthew 1:18-19

God chose Joseph to raise his one and only son. Why? Joseph could have put Mary on public display, and he could have had her stoned. However, his plan was to divorce her quietly. At first glance this seems cruel, but it was actually an act of KINDNESS from Joseph. It would have spared her life and she would have had an opportunity to return to her father's house quietly and not humiliate her at all.

What was unique about Joseph?

His kindness and COMPASSION not only for Mary but also for Jesus. He was also OBEDIENT. Because when the angel appeared to Joseph in a dream, he chose to follow the angel's instructions and marry Mary and raise Jesus as his own. Because of his kindness, compassion and obedience, Jesus was born, protected, and cared for by Joseph. The influences of Joseph in Jesus' life would be bigger than any other human.



Story of Abraham

Read Genesis 18

God promised Abraham and Sarah a child. He chose Abraham to be the father of the nation of Israel even though they were well past their prime.

Why did God choose Abraham to father the nation of Israel?

When Abraham saw the three men, his HOSPITALITY was through the roof! He was 100 years old and was a wealthy man. He had plenty of servants and could have called them to do whatever he needed, but he was the one who “hurried” and “ran” to serve them. He was not thinking of himself but of others.

Story of Jesus

Read Matthew 10: 5-15

Jesus sent his 12 disciples out into the world and gave them specific instructions as to where to stay. What did he say to look for?

Someone worthy, someone deserving, someone welcoming and someone who will listen.

He sent the disciples out with nothing. If they found people who were welcoming and would listen to their message, they were to bless their home. Because those were people of hospitality and had the right character to carry forward the Good News of Jesus. God wants us to live righteously but he is also looking for those with “Kingdom of Heaven” traits. He is looking for those with traits like kindness, hospitality, and humility. He is looking for a reflection of Himself in his people.

Read Philippians 2:5-8





It is easy to walk out this life thinking of what we want and more difficult to think of others first. Our attitude should be that of Christ Jesus “Who, being the very nature of God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant.” We know this but don’t often translate it into our lives. But we are being made to look like Jesus Christ who was so humble that he was willing to let go of his deity to embrace all of humanity.

Discussion Questions

1. What do all these stories have in common?
2. Couldn’t God have chosen anyone to be a Father to Jesus? Why do you think he chose Joseph?
3. What traits is God looking for in these stories? Can you think of any other traits that God may be looking for in us? How does God want to see those traits come out in your daily life?

Challenge

When you think of these traits that God is looking for in his people, where am I selfish when I need to be selfless? If you don’t know right off the top of your head, spend time in silence with the Lord and ask the Holy Spirit that very question. Or if you really want to be bold, ask your wife or someone closest to you that same question. Have a conversation with someone about it this week.

