

Down in Israel the people were getting impatience but what they didn't see was that God was already working because:

Eliud begat Eleazar; and Eleazar begat Matthan; and Matthan begat Jacob;

Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, and down and Bethlehem a child was born!

Somebody said, "What shall we call him?" and the answer came "Emanuel" God with us!

He's the blessing that we've been waiting for, and He's well worth the wait.

He is a prayer answering God, He's well worth the wait!

He is a body healing God; He's well worth the wait!

He is a soul saving God; He's well worth the wait!

Wait on the Lord; He'll make it worth your while!

Wait on the Lord because one evening a picked up an old rugged cross!

Wait on the Lord because He died out on Calvary!

Wait on the Lord because early Sunday morning, He arose from the Grave with all power in His hands!

Wait on the Lord; He'll make it all worth your while!

9758-Christmas

Worth the Wait

A Sermon by Roosevelt Wright, Jr.
For the Tabernacle Baptist Church
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SCRIPTURE: And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations. Matthew 1:16-17

Introduction

Have you ever waited a long time to receive a gift? When you received it, was it worth the wait? There is one thing common to this season: long lines. No matter how we try to avoid them, long waiting lines are a staple of the Yuletide season. Some are frustrated with all of the waits from the ATM machine to the Checkout line. Others have accepted waits as part of the process; they are neither frustrated nor intimidated by the process.

There are some things that are worth the wait to some, but not worth it to others. Some would argue that fifteen minute oatmeal and thirty minute grits are worth the wait. Some say homemade hamburgers, pound cakes made from scratch, or tomatoes grown in your own garden are worth the wait. Still others say the bargains they received on black Friday were worth standing in line at 3 AM in the morning and fighting the crowds to get to them. Still others would argue that hot fudge that covers the entire ice cream sundae

is worth the wait.

The shoe lover believes that the new JORDANS are worth the wait.

The romantic will tell you that finally embracing your true love is worth the wait.

The investor will tell you that the profit gained from buying low and selling high is worth the wait.

The educator will tell you that the rewards of a full college education are ultimately worth the wait.

The football fan will tell you that standing in long lines to get box seats at the Super Bowl is definitely worth the wait.

Most people will agree that they don't mind waiting as long as they can be assured that what they are waiting for is worth the wait. No one wants to waste their time.

Yet, there are many who believe that they are wasting their time in one endeavor or another because they believe that what they will finally receive won't be worth the wait. That's why some drop out of school because they believe the jobs that they will ultimately receive, if any, won't be worth the sacrifice of time and energy required to complete their education. Others abandon once special projects because they have lost faith in the ultimate reward they expected to receive.

Does that apply it to our faith, too? Is all that we do a waste of time? Will the reward that we receive at the end be worth the sacrifice that we are making in this life? There are some who are asking these real-life questions and have concluded that the life of faith won't be worth the ultimate reward. They count the number of hours they will spend in worship, Bible study, rehearsals and practices, and in service to others and they ask will all of these hours be worth it? They count the amount of money that they contribute to ministries and the donated talents that they loan to kingdom building and they ask the question, "Will all of my service pay off in the long run?"

The true believer has one response and it comes from the

the washer to go through three spin cycles, we out to be able to wait on the Lord!

If we can we wait in lines at stores or wait for another batch of fries at Mickey D's, we ought to be able to wait on the Lord!

If we can call someone on the phone and wait while they put us on hold because they have call waiting, we ought to be able to wait on the Lord

If you wait on the Lord, the blessing you will receive will be worth the wait.

If you wait on the Lord burdens get lifted.

If you wait on the Lord your heavy loads get shared.

When you wait on the Lord, bowed down heads get lifted.

When you wait on the Lord eyes wet with tears get wiped dry.

When you wait on the Lord, ways get made out of no way, storms seem to subside, bright skies return, bad habits are broken, addictions cease, and yokes are broken.

The world cried out and said, Father we're lost down here, we need a redeemer!

Lord, send us a blessing that will give us a brand new start.

While they were still praying, they didn't know that their blessing was already on the way.

What they didn't know was that 42 generations ago:

Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren;

Judas begat Phares and Phares begat Esrom; and Esrom begat Aram;

Aram begat Aminadab; and Aminadab begat Naasson; and Naasson begat Salmon;

Salmon begat Booz; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;

Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias;

are handling household matters, holding families together by threads, tending frail marriages, treating wounds and diseases, and trying to revive failing finances with little success. Some are actually down to their last ounce of strength, and still it seems that God is taking so long. Doesn't he know that we are running out of strength? We have reached the point where we are sick and tired of being sick and tired. We have waited so long that we have worn out wait. We know very well what Psalm 130:6 says, "My soul waited for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning, I say, more that they that watch for the morning." Remember, God knows just how much you can bear, and if you hold on, he'll make it worth your while. In fact, Isaiah 40:31 says, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint!" When that blessing comes we'll conclude that it was certainly worth the wait! When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hold on; help is on the way.

When you wait

Finally, brothers and sisters we must not focus on how long it's taking the blessing to come, but what is going to happen when it comes!

We must constantly remind ourselves not to hurry God, because when the time is right God will shake things up and make them happen on our behalf!

If we can wait on everything else we should be able to wait on the Lord.

If we can wait for the coffee to brew and the toast to brown, we ought to be able to wait on the Lord!

If we can wait for water to boil, popcorn to pop, and for all the commercials to pass before we can watch a rented DVD, then we ought to be able to wait on the Lord!

If we can wait for the train to pass, the cake to bake and

word of God. 1 Corinthians 2:9 says, "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." The Reverend Jasper Williams put it this way, "Serving the Lord will pay off after while."

Just as a long awaited birthday present brings us great joy, or a much anticipated Christmas present fills us with excitement, those who labor in the service of the Lord, keep the faith, and never stop trusting Him will discover sooner than they think that what God has planned for them is a blessing that worth the wait.

As Christians, we wait patiently upon the fulfillment of God's promises. We know that He has never made a promise to us that he has not kept. At times, we became frustrated because he didn't show up by our time schedule. However, our experience has taught us that God may not show up when we want him, but He's always on time.

Exposition

This text focuses upon the genealogy of Jesus Christ through his earthly father Joseph.

The text shows us the long journey through which the Messiah came to reach Earth and to fulfill the promise of God.

The text and its preceding verses is a genealogy of Joseph's family. A second account in another of the Gospels presents a genealogy of Mary's family.

This genealogy shows how Jesus appeared in the family of Joseph after 42 generations of descent. These texts present the descendants of Abraham in three groups of 14 generations of each.

Matthew records the names beginning with the oldest and moves to the most recent.

The long list of names included in the genealogy indicates how God systematically brought into the ancestry of

Joseph and Mary varied instances of intermarriage between races, nationalities and cultures pointing to the fact that once the Savior made his arrival upon this earth he would be a Jew by his biology but he would be a child of every nation based upon his diverse ethnic background.

The Savior's arrival was promised by God, but this 42 generation journey seemed an unbearable length of time to some. During these 42 generations the people waited for God to answer their prayer, and to give them the promised Savior. When the Savior was finally born he was a blessing to the entire world. History has proven that it was a blessing worth waiting for.

God's Blessing

Has God made you a promise that He seems slow answering? Are you becoming frustrated because the job you seek, the opportunity you chase or the open door you're trying to find seems to always elude you? In the meantime are all the hassles you are enduring trying to wait on God complicating things for you? Are you tempted to take matters in your own hands because you see yourself going down rapidly? If so then you should consider these three truths:

TIME PASSES QUICKLY WHEN YOU ARE BUSY WITH HIS WORK: If we sit around our homes everyday waiting for God to get that job, solve that problem or open that door, it will seem like an eternity. We know that God is moving because He has promised us that before we even ask that our help is on the way; however, it's frustrating if we are running to the window checking on every car that passes, jumping each time the telephone rings and spotting the mailman a half mile down the street trying to shake the blessing out of his bag. There is an old saying "Watch pot, never boil." It means if you spend all of your time watching the pot it will seem like the water will never boil. It's the same way with God. Since God has promised us a blessing let's get

busy doing something else other than just waiting on your "shrimp boat" to come in. When we are helping others, assisting the sick, encouraging the lonely or otherwise helping to build the kingdom, the time seems to pass quickly. Busy yourself serving and praising God and watch that blessing come. God is working it out, so busy yourself praising him and working for him. Psalm 52:9 says "I will praise thee forever, because thou hast done it: and I will wait on thy name; for it is good before thy saints." Pray, Praise and serve and before you know, God has worked it out!

EVEN WHILE YOU WAITING, GOD'S GOT YOUR BACK: If we are in a jam and we're waiting on the Lord to bless us with a solution, it gets frustrating if we forget that even while we are waiting, that God's got our back. This happens when we have prayed to God and asked for deliverance and the blessing that He promised seems so slow coming. It makes us anxious when our notes are due, the utilities are about to be disconnected and our jobs are on line. It gets really frustrating because in our weakness we start to look at the clock that brings our eventual demise closer and closer. For some these are shaky moments because we are waiting, but we doubt that what we are waiting for will be sufficient to handle the magnitude of the problem or enormity of our depressed situation. That's when we should remember Psalm 33:20 that says "Our soul waited for the LORD: He is our help and our shield." It may appear that enemies are surrounding us on every hand but God's has your situation under control. Don't worry if the enemy is at your front door and the back door and crawling through the keyhole, just remember that the Lord is your shield and in his own time He will deal with them and in the meantime he's got you covered behind his shield.

IF YOU RUN OUT OF STRENGTH, HANG ON A LITTLE WHILE LONGER: There are many who have been waiting on God for what seems to be an eternity but he has not yet answered with the blessing they need. Some