

The Secret to Waiting

Questions for Community Groups Week of October 15-22

Say, this week we met (and sat!) in our new auditorium at Shiloh Plaza, a place we have been waiting for! Still, we are still waiting for the permanent audio, video, and sound systems, waiting for the preschool and education wings to open, WAITING! In this waiting, Michael asked the question, first to the kids in our family service, “what are the hardest things to wait for?”

Ask, thinking back to your childhood, what were the hardest things for you to wait for? How about now as an adult?

Say, the first point of this week’s sermon, “The Secret to Waiting,” was that waiting without humility is not waiting. Michael shared that psychologists have started labeling impatience as our normal and healthy state and patience being a negative; an absence of drive, passion, or attention.

Ask, how does this redefining impatience as good make us less humble?

Say, as a reminder, biblical humility is defined as an attitude of lowliness and obedience, grounded in the recognition of one’s status before God as his creatures.

Ask, what are some of the ways we show our lack of humility when we struggle with waiting? (examples are grumbling, complaining, frustration, anger, forcing situations, wrestling for control.)

Say, the second point in this week’s sermon was that humility is inevitable. Let’s **read** Luke 18:9-14 and Philippians 2:1-11 to read about this inevitability.

Say, in Jesus’ parable about the two men praying, Jesus taught the inevitable result of being humble or prideful.

Ask, can you share a time where you tried promoting yourself to get noticed or get what you wanted but you were humbled? How about a time when you took a more humble approach and you ended up being elevated and noticed?

Say, in a world of social media that begs us to promote how together we are, it can be hard to stay humble. But God’s word is clear that the way of humility is the way of Christ.

Say, in the second passage we read, we hear that humility is truly inevitable for every human being; that every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord (that He is high and we are low.)

Ask, how can this truth of inevitability help you in your season of waiting for whatever? How does it help you process evil, greedy, or just plain selfish people in your life?

Say, lastly, the third point of the sermon was that humility has a payoff. Michael reminded us that scripture consistently aligns humility in God’s people with God’s favor. Here are a few of the verses that were read. Listen to the role of humility and its payoff:

Psalm 138:6 NLT

Though the Lord is great, he cares for the humble, but he keeps his distance from the proud.

Psalm 25:9 ESV

He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

Psalm 18:27 NLT

You rescue the humble, but you humiliate the proud.

Proverbs 15:33 ESV

The fear of the Lord is instruction in wisdom, and humility comes before honor.

Proverbs 22:4 ESV

The reward for humility and fear of the Lord is riches and honor and life.

Say, Michael also reminded us that humility was linked with repentance, especially in the Old Testament when God recognized the humility found in the repentance of His people which in turn protected them from God's wrath. He also mentioned that a lack of humility is always linked with some sort of disobedience. Let's read one verse from Jeremiah 44:10 about God's people and that link between pride and disobedience –

Jeremiah 44:10 ESV

They have not humbled themselves even to this day, nor have they feared, nor walked in my law and my statutes that I set before you and before your fathers.

Say, in closing Michael gave us two small things we can do to insert humility into our waiting (use these statements and questions lead into your reflection and prayer time as a group:)

1. Be thankful for what you have. **Ask**, so in your life, **what has Jesus provided?**
2. Be okay with your situation not changing. **Ask, is Jesus is enough?**

Close in prayer.