

Walking In The Way Of Jesus; **When God Says Wait, Part 2**

Considering the path from the tomb to the world

When God says “No”, “Don’t”, or “Stop”, we can respond in frustration, anger, or confidence. When God says “Yes”, “Do”, or “Go”, we can respond in fear, uncertainty, or excitement. When God says “Wait”, we can respond with questions or we can respond with excitement and confidence.

Today is When God Says Wait, Part 2

Acts 21-28 records Paul’s final imprisonment process before his death.

For two years (57-59 AD), Paul is kept under guard in Herod's palace in Caesarea (Acts 23:34-35) as the politicians -- Roman governors and Jewish kings -- seek to use Paul to gain political advantage with the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem. His imprisonment isn't about justice, but about preventing discontent from turning into open rebellion among the Jews. So Paul is neither formally charged nor released.

Acts 24:23 Paul is under guard but not in a dungeon. He receives his food from Christians in Caesarea.

Acts 26:31-32 Paul appeals to Caesar and must travel to Rome under guard. Acts 27-28 is a record of the voyage that took around 6 months.

There are so many details but Paul’s final letter was 2 Timothy was probably written from an underground dungeon in Mamertine Prison in Rome.

Paul spent approximately 5 years under arrest with about 2 ½ years of that time being spent in a literal prison cell.

Let’s review Acts 9 as I want to point out a detail that is easily missed in the reading as we tend to read it with chronological assumption.

9:17-22 NKJV ¹⁷ *And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”* ¹⁸ *Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.*

¹⁹ *So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus.*

²⁰ *Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.*

²¹ *Then all who heard were amazed, and said, “Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?”*

²² *But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ.*

Between verses 19 & 22, Paul spends 3 years in Arabia being instructed by Jesus Christ.

Read Galatians 1:11-20. (2 Corinthians 11:32-33 confirms the timeline as a change in Roman leadership)

Paul was ministering but he also waited as he was being personally prepared by our Lord.

Think of the comparison that our Lord waited the majority of His earthly life for 3-3 ½ years of public ministry. Jesus, the Son of God, waited and learned for 28 plus years.

In our culture, waiting has become a dirty word because it seems like everything must be experienced instantaneously.

Jacquelyn Henry sharing real life experiences regarding her life of waiting on God.

Parenting consideration (Mechanics of Parenting class tonight)

When we give our children everything without teaching them the value of waiting, we risk shaping their understanding of Heavenly Father in a way that is not true or accurate. When these children grow older and God tells them to “wait”, they might assume they have done something wrong or that God does not love them. Their response to God could be based in the simple reality that they have never experienced the discipline of patience. Patiently waiting is a characteristic that is foreign to their experiential understanding.

Jacquelyn input

Three aspects of learning to wait on the Lord:

- > **He is preparing you**
- > **He is purifying you**
- > **He wants you to embrace His plan by knowing and walking with Him on the most personal level**

The question is, will you trust Him and allow Him to be your Lord?