

MONDAY AUGUST 30

WAITING

Lamentations 3:25, 26

That word "wait" is a word that will bring a negative reaction to us very quickly. When we're put on hold during a phone call, when we must wait in what we thought was the shortest line can become irritating to us. I'm sure you could add to this list. Our dislike of having to wait is an indication of just how impatient we've become. All our modern conveniences have made us a people expecting instant results in every area of life. Therefore, when God speaks the word "wait," we get upset with Him as well. Something needs to change and I am certain it won't be Him. His time clock is not the same as ours and we would be wise to change our "clocks" to His time.

When it becomes necessary for us to wait on God, what is our attitude of heart as we do so? No matter the reason for our waiting (whether it be for an answer, deliverance from conflict or afflictions) the promise is the Lord is good to those who know their hope is in Him and who wait quietly. (Lamentations 3:25, 26) We just do more harm to ourselves and place a hindrance in the way to even hear Him when He speaks when we are impatient and irritated about waiting. The Lord Himself is waiting to see how you will wait. "Therefore the LORD is waiting to show you mercy; it is rising up to show you compassion, for the LORD is a just God. All who wait patiently for Him are happy. (Isaiah 30:18 HCSB)

God's purposes for waiting can be many and if we truly understand His character and nature, we will know His wait reasons are not to be mean or cruel. Mixed in before and after verses 25 and 26 (of Lamentations) are reminders to us of His character and nature.

1. He is merciful (verses 22 and 32).
2. He is compassionate.
3. He is faithful (verse 23).
4. He is good (verse 25).
5. He is a deliverer (verse 26).
6. He is just and righteous (verse 31).
7. He is long suffering (verse 33).
8. He is kind.

Therefore, if we must wait, let us not throw away our confidence in Him by our impatience. Let us have the resolve to wait quietly before Him with our hope in His Word. "Because of the LORD'S faithful love we do not perish, for His mercies never end. They are new every morning, great is Your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23 HCSB)