

Pastor Jordan 7.7.19 sermon Psalm 40, Luke 17

Grace and peace be to you from God our father and our lord Jesu the Christ amen

NYG start in Houston

- Hot
- Line
- No Water
- No Shade
- Get rushed in 30 minutes late, miss whole first block of the opening worship

So I'm thinking we got to be patient right. Tell the group it's not going to be like this tomorrow.

But while we were all sitting there we were wondering is this why we were there? Is this why God wanted us here?

Lepers probably had some of those same thoughts. They had be kicked out of their communities to live apart. They had no hope of being cured unless there was someone in a billion chance God was going to show up on earth and heal them. Like that was going to happen for them? No, they were probably resigned to their fates and patiently waited for their end.

Today's psalmist wrote

I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

Is that what we are supposed to be doing? Waiting patiently for God to listen to our cries? Well, yes. We are supposed to do that. We are supposed to lift our cries to God. And we know that God will answer. We know that our God is a living and moving God. We know that our God loves us and works for the best for us in all times and all places. We know that the patience that we have with God is not a sit on the couch and binge Netflix type of patience. It's not a twiddling your thumbs type of patience.

We have the type of patience that all those little ones have at tiny tots. For those 3 4 and 5 year olds when we talk about patience with them it's a vigilant patience that they end up having. What's that we are going to take turns playing with the playdough or the truck? Well you better believe it's the end of the world for a minute but then they watch and they wait. They know that their turn is coming. They are being patient until they can jump into action at a moment's notice.

I really think that is the type of faithful patience that the psalmist is talking about. That is the patience that we are supposed to be having every day. We know we are in the arms of a loving God. We are filled with the Holy Spirit who is guiding us. We have this patience so that we can better see our God at work.

I think we all know this is at work in our Call process. This interim time where we dwell with God and each other, patiently, and start figuring out where we are being lead and how we can

better show the love of God to our brothers and sisters in this community. We know our God is at work.

Our God is at work. God is opening up spaces and place for you to be the presence of God in the world. We are waiting to jump into action.

Summer Stretch - Nursing home visit and Rain garden clean up. Care for those things which are so easily forgotten and negated to wayside. And then there was Operation sandwich, Salem west - these places never run out of a need of volunteers and supplies.

Our story of God moving us from patience to action

Community meals - feeding people right here. Not some abstract person in Asia. They are right here.

Food shelf - biggest in Aitkin - does not turn anyone away, emergency food boxes every day, open for all twice a month. But there is another need. Our director for this community food shelf is retiring. She has been at this for 20 years. She has diligently loved God and loved this community and all its people and now is her time to step down. But we need people to replace her or this all falls apart. So I'm going to put out this call.

Maybe you've been waiting. Maybe you've been patiently listening for a call for what you should do. Now is the time to step up. Now is the time to move into action. Now is the time help the mission of this church and your God and change people's lives for the better.

The psalmist ends this psalm with his response to God's love.

8 I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."

9 I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; see, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord.

10 I have not hidden your saving help within my heart, I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.

He starts with patience and ends in action. With praising God and sharing the love of God with all those around him. But God doesn't just need our lips singing his praises. God needs our hands moving and blessing.

NYG - So we ended that kind of crappy first day in Houston in the hotel with me telling our Group It will not be like this tomorrow. And it wasn't. God had put hundreds and hundreds of dedicated faithful people in charge of this gathering. And God's choices were evident. God's fingerprints were all over that event. From our little but of patience that evening we were rewarded with a day of service were we helped people who desperately need us there. We heard amazing speakers and musicians. We learned about issues from around the world and how we could help with them.

From a little bit of patience we got a whole lot of action. That is how our God is working in our world. So be vigilant and ready to respond. Because no matter where you are or what you're going through God is always there.