

IN GOD'S WAITING ROOM

Friday, March 23

Reading: Psalm 40

Psalm 40:1 *I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry.*

It seems that whenever I choose a lane at the grocery store that is the lane that slows to a crawl. The other lanes are taking care of customers right and left, but my lane has someone who has a credit issue or who is paying for all their groceries in pennies! It's easy to get impatient and annoyed at times like this. We want everything now! We don't like to wait.

Sometimes we approach God with this attitude. As David begins Psalm 40 he says that he "waited patiently for the Lord." In the Hebrew, David literally says "I waited waited for the Lord." The repetition of the word wait intensifies its meaning. We often think of waiting in terms of sitting around twiddling out thumbs waiting for something to happen. But in the Bible waiting is about an intense focus and concentration on God. It is connected with the idea of hope and is sometimes even translated this way.

So what did David receive as a result of waiting and trusting in the Lord? First, the Lord has given him a **NEW FOUNDATION** on which to stand. God planted his feet on the solid rock of God's character (40:2). David had felt like he was sinking like quicksand until God rescued him. Now David felt strong and secure in God's care.

His waiting also brought David a **NEW JOY** (40:3-4). He has a new song to sing and share with others who will see what God has done and put their trust in Him as well. David knows the blessing of trusting in God instead of looking for aid from the world.

Waiting gave David a **NEW APPRECIATION** for God's past deeds (40:5). As he waits for God to work in the present, he is comforted by remembering the past. God's wonders are too numerous to count. David knows that since God has been faithful in the past, He can be trusted with the present and future.

Waiting has given David a **NEW PERSPECTIVE** on salvation (40:6-8). He no longer simply goes through the motions of sacrifices and offerings, but desires to serve God from the heart. He has been changed from the inside out!

This new experience has given him a **NEW TESTIMONY** (40:9-10). David does not hide what God has done for him. He shares it with everyone who will listen.

The final verses of the psalm remind us that seasons of waiting for the Lord will always return. Temptations and troubles will pop up when we least expect them. God's waiting room teaches us how to respond correctly in these times. We continually call out to God (40:11-15) and find strength in comparing who we are ["poor and needy"] to Who God is ["my Help and Deliverer"] (40:17). Always remember that the goal of seeking and waiting on the Lord is not merely for deliverance but to bring glory to His name - "May those who long for Your saving help always say, 'The Lord is great!'" (40:16).