

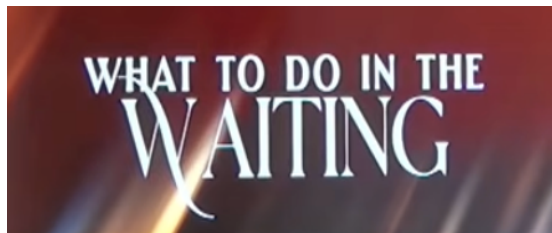
WHAT TO DO IN THE WAITING?

A Lord's Flock Worship Service Topic

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The season of waiting is never God's punishment; rather, it is His way of showing us His love, mercy, and compassion even in the face of our disobedience. God uses our waiting seasons to get our attention, draw us back to Him, and turn what seems like a hopeless situation into a realization that all we need is God's presence. Hence, while we are going through a storm, and need saving, it is time to pray to the Lord and trust that He will bring us out of the pit.



1. THE STORY OF JONAH

1.1. **Jonah Disobeyed God** (*Jonah 1:3 NIV*). God told Jonah to go to Nineveh, but he ran away and boarded a ship heading in the opposite direction.

1.2. **God sent a powerful storm** (*Jonah 1:4 NIV*). Then, Jonah recognized his disobedience and told the sailors to throw him into the sea. When they did, the sea became calm.

1.3. **God provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah** (*Jonah 1:17 NIV*). Jonah spent three days and three nights inside the fish. Unable to escape or control his situation, he turned to God. What seemed like punishment became a place of prayer, reflection, and reconnecting with God.

1.4. **God gave Jonah another chance.** (*Jonah 2:10 NIV*). After three days of waiting, God commanded the fish to release Jonah onto dry land. God had not abandoned him; He used the waiting season to get Jonah's attention, bring him back, and give him another opportunity to obey.

2. TRUTHS FROM THE STORY OF JONAH

2.1. **Sometimes, what we call a problem is God's provision.** What seemed like the end for Jonah became God's provision. The fish was God's way of getting Jonah's attention and reminding him that he needed God. God's provision does not always look like comfort; sometimes, it comes through storms and difficult circumstance.

2.2. **God is not a punishing God.** Jonah's three days inside the fish were dark, uncomfortable, and suffocating. What seemed like punishment was actually God showing him love,

compassion, and mercy. God can use our difficult moments to draw us closer to Him.

2.3. **Helplessness does not mean hopelessness.** Jonah could not save himself or control what would happen next. In his helplessness, he turned to God. When we cannot fix our situation, we can completely rely on God.

2.4. **Praise comes first before the miracle/provision.** Jonah praised God before he was out of the fish. We do not have to wait for our situation to change before we praise God. We can praise Him while waiting, trusting that He is working even when we cannot see it.

2.5. **While we are waiting, God is still working.** While Jonah prayed and praised inside the fish, God was already preparing his way out. When we wait on God, we can trust that He is with us. He is working, and He is always on time.

3. WHAT SHOULD WE DO IN THE WAITING?

3.1. **PRAY.** (*Jonah 2:1-3; 6 NIV*). When we are afraid, stuck, or unsure, let us pray instead of wallowing in panic or trying to control everything. God hears us and answers in His way and in His time.

3.2. **PRAISE** (*Jonah 2:9-NIV*). We do not have to wait for the miracle before we praise. We can praise God in the middle of our waiting, trusting that He is working even when we cannot see it.

3.3. **MAKE THINGS RIGHT** (*Jonah 2:9-10-NIV*). The waiting gave Jonah time to recognize his disobedience, turn back to God, and surrender to His will. Thus, praying and praising must be followed by repentance and obedience. Like Jonah, we must be willing to acknowledge where we have gone wrong, surrender, and obey God.

CONCLUSION:

We may not be able to control the **"what"**, **"why"**, or **"when"** of our waiting season, but we can choose what we do while we wait:

PRAY.

PRAISE.

REPENT & MAKE THINGS RIGHT.

Waiting may be difficult, but it is never wasted; it draws us closer to God.

REFLECTION:

1. What has God allowed or sent into your life today to get your attention?
2. How did He remind you of His love, mercy, and compassion?

SCRIBES Ministry

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