

1 Thessalonians 5 - The Waiting Room – part 5

I Thessalonians 5:14-16—We are pursuing the answers to the question of “what do we do while we wait on the what God has for us.”

--We are at the place where Paul starts rattling off these things to do while we wait.

--It is important in this process of waiting that we realize that people are different and their needs are different, so the way we handle each one has to be different as well. VV. 14-16

Jesus was perfect in everything including in how He dealt with each individual.

--He knew that all He needed to do with Zacchaeus was tell him to come down from the tree and he confessed and repented on the spot.

--He knew that there was no need to argue with the rich young ruler because he was full of himself and wasn't ready to have Jesus as his Savior.

--He knew that the woman at the well would see Him as the Messiah when nobody else could seem to see it.

--This isn't going to be a perfect process but we need to strive for perfection which includes how we deal with each other—Not everyone is at the same capacity or can be dealt with in the same way.

1. Paul lines out our differences for us.

1. Admonish the unruly or undisciplined – It must have been an issue in this church because Paul refers to these again in II Thessalonians 3:6-7; 11-13

--Doing nothing isn't nothing, it's a sin: Ephesians 2:10 what works were you created to do? do those things for the Lord and His church.

2. Encourage the fainthearted or timid – We don't deal with people in broad brush strokes—some aren't doing much not because they are undisciplined but because they are fainthearted.

--Instead of a kick in the seat of the pants they need and arm around their shoulder and a word of encouragement “you can do this” “I see this capability in you”

3. Help the Weak --

--Literally it says, “hold onto” them; notice the different ways we deal with the same problem—people aren't working and serving as they should: one needs to be rebuked, another needs a word of encouragement, still another needs to just be held onto.

--They are weak for any number of reasons—maybe too much happening in their lives: tragedy, brokenness, illness, maybe they are just young in the faith.

You're riding on a bus and a woman gets on with four children and the kids are being kids and climbing over the seats, crawling down the aisle, they even knock over someone's bag and another person's coffee. But their mom is just sitting there doing nothing. “She needs to get ahold of her kids.” Someone voices what everyone else is thinking, and she apologizes and reigns in her children. But then you hear her say to the person she's seated by—“I'm sorry, but we are coming back from the hospital where my husband passed away.”

--Perspective will help you see that some just need to be held on to.

--You don't need the title of shepherd to be one—watch out for each other.

--Look out for the weak and don't let them slip through the cracks.

--Cain asked if he was his brother's keeper or shepherd—Are you? Yes, you are!

4. Be Patient with Everyone – what a great thing to have on your to-do list!

--This is truly where the rubber meets the road with regard to waiting.

--“I'm going to go out there wait, and while I do I will be patient with every last person”

--Patience is the first thing that goes when we are waiting, isn't it?

We are in a waiting process on a number of levels here:

--You may not have processed how new things are at First Baptist.

--New Pastor – They say that a pastor really doesn't become the Pastor until about his fifth year.

--New Worship Pastor and Youth director – These guys are young and relatively inexperienced and need your patience and understanding.

--New Administrative Secretary (pic)

--New Rec. Director – never had one of those before!

--Newly renovated building and possible addition – nothing has been done to it since 1998.

--New church members – Former ones have passed on. 28 funerals since I have been here; more than I did in previous 22 years!

--These all represent major changes and major changes take time to come together and work well.

--This will all take time – it won't work like a business because our product is people and relationships.

5. V. 15 don't return anything bad

What's the use of commanding that we be patient if we aren't really going to need it?

--As long as things are going as they should and in our favor; everybody acts well--but make us wait, and the worst can come out in us.

--You're in a hurry and a guy cuts you off; you're in a hurry and the person in front of you brings something with no tag on it so they have to go look it up; or they can't find their money, or their credit card is declined, or their kids are climbing all over things and bumping into you.

--"People should do what is right; should be kind; should keep their mouth shut; should act in love; should know and do what's best"—I agree!

--**What happens when they don't?**

--This is such a critical part of waiting—what to do when we don't wait very well.

--**Luke 6:27-28; 35-36** – This is the worst-case scenario – If God only returned evil for evil, there would be no one left alive.

--God is merciful, peace-loving, kind, gentle, patient.

--Waiting will take a lot of those things to make it to the end.