



## Pastor Kelli Wommack “Illuminate: Wait Training” 12/5/2021

### Key Verses:

- Isaiah 9:1-7

### Key Thoughts:

- Advent is all about preparation for Jesus. We celebrate him coming as a child. But we long for his light now. The last 20 months have been some of our darkest. Advent also reminds us that he’s coming again. Are you waiting for him?
- Isaiah wrote about Jesus’ coming about 600-700 years prior to Jesus’ birth to a people of Israel that were hopeless. There were hard times ahead, but Jesus gave them something to long for.
- “It’s hard to wait because often we don’t believe God is at work in our lives.” But Advent reminds us that God has come, he comes to us daily, and he will come again.

### What do we often do as we wait?

1. *Become impatient and turn to other gods* – Exodus 32:1-4
  - In this story, the people of Israel become so impatient while Moses is on Mount Sinai that they fashion their own idol.
  - When God is taking too long to intervene in our situation, we all have an idol that we resort to; to escape, for security.
2. *Become anxious and manipulate the situation* – Genesis 15:4-6, 16:1-2
  - Like Sarah and Abram, we try to help things along because it’s taking too long.
  - Waiting for God to act is an act of faith instead of human exertion. It’s a way of life that goes against our tendency to be impulsive and desire to have our own way right now.
3. *Become so fearful that we give up* – Numbers 14:1-4, Joshua 18:3
  - “If only we had died in Egypt” – sometimes we become so fearful that we think it’s better to go backwards, even when they were so close to the promised land.

### What we can do as we wait

1. *Prioritize God in our lives* – Matthew 3:1-3
  - The first thing we must do is repent for how we’ve struggled with waiting for him.
  - Make room for God in your life. If you’ve created idols or are manipulating situations, we’re shutting God out.
  - Like JTB says in Matthew 3, we have to make a way, make room for God in our life.
2. *Pray fervently*
  - “Waiting in prayer is a disciplines refusal to act before God acts.” – Eugene Peterson
  - “Active waiting is waiting that pays attention, is fully present to what is really going on, even when to all outward appearances, nothing is going on.” – Henri Nouwen
3. *Put your foot in the water* – Joshua 3:3-8
  - God tells them to go stand in the river, not wait at the edge. Sometimes we want to stand back and see God work before we step out.



- Waiting on God isn't inactivity. It's refusal to move without connecting our lives to God.
- The waters will not move until we step into it.
- Advent reminds us that it's not about our faithfulness in waiting, it's about Jesus' faithfulness in coming.

**Discussion Questions:**

- What would you say is the main reason that you struggle with waiting?
- Which of the three ways that we often wait best describes you? Why?
- Which of the three ways that we should wait do you need to work on most? How can you begin to do this?