

SERIES TEXT: “Everything is possible for him who believes.” Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” - Jesus, Mark 9:23-24 NIV

SERIES BIG IDEA: Try praying for a week and see what happens.

How To Win By Waiting

A Man Named Joseph

St. Luke 23:50-54 NIV

- 50) Now there was *a man named Joseph*, a member of the Council, a good and upright man,
 51) who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea and HE WAS WAITING FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD.
 52) Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus’ body.
 53) Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid.
 54) It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

What we know about *a man named Joseph*...

- A member of the Jewish High Council. (v. 50)
 - A man of good heart and good character. (v. 50)
 - Had not consented to their plan to crucify Jesus. (v. 51)
 - Hometown was the Jewish village of Arimathea. (v. 51)
 - He boldly asked for, took down, prepared, and buried Jesus’ dead body. (v. vv. 52-53) i.e., Jesus’ coroner.
 - A rich man. (Mt 27:57)
 - Had become a disciple of Jesus over time. (Mt 27:57)
 - The tomb where he buried Jesus was his own, new, and one that he had personally cut out of the rock. (Mt 27:60)
 - A *prominent* member of the Council. (Mk 15:43)
 - *Boldly* had asked Pilate for Jesus’ body. (Mk 15:43)
 - He was a *secret* disciple of Jesus. (Jn 19:38)
 - ... he was WAITING for the kingdom of God. (Luke 23:51)
- ♦ If God makes you wait, you’re in good company: Abraham waited 25 years for his miracle. Joseph waited 13 years for his dream. Moses waited 25 years for his deliverance. Jesus waited 30+ years for His passion.
 - ♦ ... he was WAITING for the kingdom of God. (Luke 23:51)
 - ♦ WAITING | προσδέχομαι | prosdechomai, v.: to look forward, to expect the fulfilment of a promise.
 - ♦ He LIVED IN ALERT EXPECTATION of the kingdom of God. (v. 51 MSG)

The Lesson: If you’re waiting on God to do something miraculous in your life, do what good and faithful waiters do; SERVE.

Waiting 101:

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to SERVE, and to give his life as a ransom for many." - Jesus, Mark 10:45a NIV

- Serving at Calvary is as easy as 1-2-3:
 - 1) Text HERETOHELP to (206) 594-5683
 - 2) Fill Out a Connect Card
 - 3) Check the "I Want to Serve" Box
- ... they RESTED on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment. (v. 56)
- My soul finds REST in God alone; my salvation comes from him... SELAH Psalm 62:1 NIV
- I WAIT patiently for God to save me; I depend on him alone... SELAH Psalm 62:1 GNT
- SELAH: a musical term; to pause in His presence.

Fermata 101:

Keep your eyes on the Conductor!

- In the same way a fermata is written into a music score, waiting for God to answer your prayer is an opportunity to Selah - Take a long *pause in His presence*.
- Even Jesus took a long pause in the tomb while waiting for His Father's will and then was raised to life again!

HOW TO WIN BY WAITING:

(Inspired by *The Blessing of Adversity: Finding Your God-Given Purpose in Life's Troubles* by Barry C. Black, Chaplain of the US Senate)

I. WAIT FOR GOD

- Lord, the only thing I can do is WAIT and put my hope in you. I WAIT for your help, my God. Psalm 38:15 TPT

II. TRUST GOD'S PROVIDENCE

- It is better to TRUST in the Lord than to put confidence in man. Psalm 118:8 KJV

III. REFUSE TO MURMUR AND COMPLAIN

- "Do not MURMUR among yourselves." - Jesus, John 6:43 NKJV
- Do everything without COMPLAINING or arguing. Philippians 2:14 NIV

IV. REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS ALREADY DONE & BASE YOUR FAITH ON THE EVIDENCE

- But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31 NIV
- For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Romans 15:4 NIV

V. BELIEVE GOD CAN DO THE IMPOSSIBLE

- "Everything is possible for him who believes." - Jesus, Mark 9:23 NIV

VI. LEAN ON FAITH, NOT ON WORKS

- Without FAITH it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Hebrews 11:6 NIV
- WHAT tests has God sent your way that seem difficult to pass because they require faith and not works?
- Step out of traffic! Take a long, loving look at me, your High God, above politics, above everything. Psalm 46:10 MSG

Jesus