



# WAITING AS PREPARATION

WEEK 8 | JOHN REILLY

## James 5:7-11

*Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.*

→ Culture is rewiring us to not have to wait.

**Often God has to develop something in you before He can do something through you.**

- We want job growth; He wants to give us character.
- We want clarity; He wants to give us faith.
- We want healing; He wants us to rely on Him.

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- 1 Prepare the soil
- 2 Plant a seed
- 3 Let it rain

#### **4 Trust the process**

#### **5 Reap the harvest**

→ We want to immediately jump to step 5, and we expect God to do something.

#### **What if you're not waiting on God, but He's waiting on you?**

→ Sometimes God has already given us what He wants us to do. We get stuck because we're too stubborn to do it.

**Question:** Is my waiting about His silence or my resistance?

#### **James 1:22**

*...be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*

**Question:** Have I drawn a line, saying, "God, I trust you with this, but not with that?"

We experience fear when we don't know all the steps, but God will not allow anything to happen that is outside His control.

**Question:** God, is there an area in my life that I am stuck in because I am being disobedient?

#### **James 5:10-11**

*As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.*

#### **Job 1:1-5**

*There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. He possessed 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east. His*

sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually.

1. Job is blameless and upright. He runs toward God when he sins, rather than away.
2. He has a large family that enjoys each other.
3. He was blessed with great wealth.
4. He had integrity.

### **Job 1:6-12**

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. The LORD said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason? Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face," And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

There is no equal battle between good and evil; there is a sovereign God and a dog on a leash.

- God has allowed our difficult seasons to happen, but He is in control and can bring about good things.

**Some things are bigger than we can see.**

### Job 2:4-6

*“Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.” And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life.”*

Job and his friends ask over 300 questions:

- Existential: Why was I even born?
- Theological: How can God be good and allow this to happen?
- Moral: Why aren't bad things happening to evil people instead of me?

When God speaks to Job, He answers none of His questions, but asks some of His own:

- Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
- Can you bind the stars of Pleiades?
- Do you give the horse its strength?
- Do you have the ability to tell the dawn when to begin and set it in its place?

God created and manages the *behemoth* (beast of the land) and *leviathan* (beast of the sea). **Can He not manage our lives?**

### Job 41:8

*Lay your hands on him; remember the battle—you will not do it again!*

**Often we are waiting on a response, when God wants to give us revelation.**

### Job 42:5

*I have heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you;*

Difficult waiting seasons are even harder when we try to walk through them without God.

