



SANCTUARY REFLECTION GUIDE

November 10, 2024

Title: Worth the Wait

Preacher: Rev. Paul Rasmussen

Scriptures: James 5:7-11; 2 Peter 3:8-9

Our culture celebrates efficiency. We prioritize getting from Point A to Point B as quickly as possible, and we are good at it! But what if closing the gap between problem and solution isn't always the goal? Some things—like heartache, grief, and struggle—cannot be rushed. Though we crave instant relief, Scripture tells us what we truly need: *patience*.

Of all the commands in the Bible, which is the hardest for you? To rejoice? To forgive? To serve? For many of us, patience might top the list! Why is it so difficult to wait? And where is patience when we need it most? In this sermon, we explore what James 5 has to say about this Fruit of the Spirit, and what it looks like to practice patience in difficult circumstances and in our relationships with God and others.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What stuck out to you about this sermon? Was there an idea that was particularly meaningful or challenging for you?
2. When have you experienced or witnessed God's patience?
3. Read James 5:7-11 together. How does the example of the farmer challenge the way we handle situations we can't control? Are there areas of life where you find it hard to "wait for the rain?"

4. James also warns against being impatient with each other. Why do you think patience is key to healthy relationships? And why is it difficult for us to be patient with one another?
5. In our fast-paced world, what are some practical ways we can resist the cultural pressure to “close the gap” between problems and solutions as quickly as possible? In other words, how can you stretch your waiting muscles?

WEEKLY PRACTICE

This week, we invite you to spend some time in **quiet reflection about the four areas where James urges believers to exercise patience: our circumstances, our suffering, our relationship with God, and with others.**

Carve out 10-15 minutes of silence to journal and pray about the following questions:

- Where in your life is it hardest to wait right now and *why*? What emotions arise in you when you think about that waiting?
- Who do you need to have more patience with?
- Picture how patience could transform one specific area of your life right now. How might you respond differently? How might it impact the people around you?

Close in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to partner with you to cultivate the patience you need in each situation and relationship.