

The Strength of Waiting

Building Core Strength

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Bible Text: Luke 18:1-43

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Well, how many of us would say that in at least some area of our lives we are currently in a position of waiting? Is that true for you in some way this morning? Maybe you are trying to buy a house and you have completed all the paper work and now just wait. Perhaps you had some medical tests performed and now it is a matter of waiting for the results. Maybe you have applied for all sorts of jobs and so much of that now is done online. You are just in a period of waiting. There is not a whole lot more you can do.

I imagine that practically everybody here is waiting for some thing. Maybe it is something you have talked to God about, probably, something you asked him to provide for you, something you asked him to remove from your life, something you have asked him to change, something you have asked to understand and something to add, to take away. You have been talking to God about it and so far it has not happened yet. You are waiting. And maybe it is something that God has spoken to you about. And what I mean by that is he has made some sort of a promise to you in his Word and at this point, at least for you personally, that promise has not come true. So you are waiting. Maybe you have ever argued with your own soul like the psalmists did in Psalm 27:14.

“Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD.”¹

Note the juxtaposition of waiting and strength in that verse, by the way. Wait for the Lord. I think many of us would say, “That doesn’t come easily.” That doesn’t come automatically at all. Waiting wisely and waiting well, that is just plain hard, right?

But the question before the house is: Is it also good? Does the Lord ever put us in that position in order to accomplish something in us? Elizabeth Elliot things so in her book *Passion and Purity: Learning to Bring your Love Life under Christ’s Control*. She said, “I realize that the deepest spiritual lessons are not learned by his letting us having our way in the end, but by his making us wait, bearing with us in love and patience until we are able to honestly pray what he taught his disciples to pray, ‘Thy will be done.’”

¹ Psalm 27:14.

She also said this. She said, “Waiting on God requires the willingness to bear uncertainty, to carry within one’s self the unanswered question and lifting the heart to God about it, that unanswered question, whenever it intrudes upon one’s thoughts.”

I don’t know about you, but I have got quite a way to go when it comes to getting to that place, being willing to bear uncertainty. Does anybody want to stand in line with me on that one, waiting well?

Well, so the passage of Scripture we are going to study this morning, it think, can really help us.

With that in mind, would you open your Bible to Luke chapter 18? I would also like point out that today I have also graduated to a large cup of water. I mean the pulpit experience is marvelous here. I have got the pick. I have got the jumbo cup of water. Wow.

Luke chapter 18. That is on page 62 of the back section of the Bible under the chair in front of you if you need that this morning.

And we are talking this morning about the strength of waiting. If you were with us last week you know we studied that amazing story of the 10 lepers who were miraculously cleansed by Jesus of their terrible disease. And the first part of the scandal in that story was that only one of the 10 actually returned to give God thanks. The second part of the scandal was that the one who did was... what was it, again? A Samaritan, a foreigner, the one who had least access to the pure truth of the Word of God. And we challenged ourselves to immediately begin looking for opportunities all through the fall to grow in this matter of thankfulness. And so I want to check up. That is part of my job, you know, checking up. Did you find opportunities this week to apply the passage and did you grow in thanksgiving?

I am just saying that if you are new to studying the Bible with us, I should point out that we are very serious about being doers of the Word. Really, that is crucial to us. We take that concept from a place like James 1:22:

But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.²

Does, does, does, does, does. It starts in a heart that is changing, but it impacts our hands, if we don’t do that perfectly. But I am glad we have more people attending this church than ever. That is good, huh? I hope we are all committed to this matter of learning to be

² James 1:22-25.

doers of the Word. And I hope every time you come to church you try to find something from the Word of God that you can apply in a concrete, specific way in the coming week.

Now it is important, after that test, that scandal about the nine who did not return, the very next issue that Jesus talks to his disciples about is the issue of waiting. In this case, theologically, waiting for his return. And he explained already, several times about his pending death, burial and resurrection. That is going to come up yet again in the verses we are going to study this morning. But he is also now talking about waiting for his return, for the culmination of all the promises and prophecies that have been made to him and the people of God. That is why we would read right after the 10 lepers section—I am going to skip this for sake of time this morning—but just to help you understand the context. He said to the disciples, “The days will come when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man and you will not see it.” In fact, if you just kind of scan down over the rest of chapter 17 you will see it is all about that, the call to and the challenge of waiting, waiting, waiting.

Now here is what happens in the chapter that we are going to unfold this morning, chapter 18. It is a series of stories that are told that give us three important qualities of a person who wants to wait well. I need that. How about you? Three important qualities of a person who wants to wait well. And the passage that ends with this delightful narrative of a dear man who actually exemplifies all of those principles. And so I have tried to give you the book ends, to read the chapter now. Luke 18 beginning in verse one.

Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, saying, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me legal protection from my opponent.' For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.'"

And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge *said; now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 'I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to

me, the sinner!' I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

And they were bringing even their babies to Him so that He would touch them, but when the disciples saw it, they began rebuking them. But Jesus called for them, saying, "Permit the children to come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all."

A ruler questioned Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments, 'DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.'"

And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth."

When Jesus heard this, He said to him, "One thing you still lack; sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

But when he had heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich. And Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

They who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But He said, "The things that are impossible with people are possible with God."

Peter said, "Behold, we have left our own homes and followed You."

Verse 35, for sake of time.

As Jesus was approaching Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the road begging. Now hearing a crowd going by, he began to inquire what this was. They told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he called out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Those who led the way were sternly telling him to be quiet; but he kept crying out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped and commanded that he be brought to Him; and when he came near, He questioned him, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

And he said, "Lord, I want to regain my sight!"

And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well."

Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him, glorifying God; and when all the people saw it, they gave praise to God.³

Don't you love the Word? Absolutely. The strength of waiting. Three important qualities of a person who wants to wait well. First of all this, live with expectancy. Now this is another one of those parables that just has a purposeful shock factor built into it. I am talking about this first one, this unjust judge. And we have seen this before, these shock factors in the parables, because Jesus was a master teacher. He was a compelling story teller. In fact, do you remember a couple of weeks ago that that other parable of the unjust steward who was about to be fired so he went to several of the people who owed his boss money. He arbitrarily reduced their bills with the clear motivation that after he was fired he would have friends to take care of him, because they had been benefactors of his embezzlement. And the boss actually caught him in the act and you are thinking, oh, he is going to get it now. What happened? Do you remember the parable? Just the opposite. The master praised the unrighteous manager, because he had acted shrewdly. And then Jesus said:

"...for the sons of this age are more shrewd in relation to their own kind than the sons of light. And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by means of the wealth of unrighteousness, so that when it fails, they will receive you into the eternal dwellings."⁴

And we had fun unpacking all of that for sure, didn't we? Wow. Like, what, what, what, what, what? Yeah, this is another one of those stories now, this story of the unjust or the unrighteous judge which makes us scratch our head.

Now what is helpful about these parables that we read, at least the first two is that it actually states the point of the parable. Verse one, right at the beginning.

"Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart."⁵

And this is how we are talking about waiting well fits into this. After you have prayed for something, between the time of you praying for something and God answering, how do you wait well and not lose heart? Think about the story for a minute. It begins with this wicked judge. And Jesus pulls no punches at all.

"In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man."⁶

³ Luke 18:35-43.

⁴ Luke 16:8-9.

⁵ Luke 18:1.

There it is, huh? That is what you don't want to have inscribed on your tombstone, by the way. In other words, he broke the two greatest commands. No one is going to get through to that guy because he doesn't fear God and he doesn't respect people until he met his match, the persistent widow.

And then we know one of those. But anyway, I digress.

"There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me legal protection from my opponent.' For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.'"⁷

Now if you stopped right there you might say, ok, I get the point. I see how this fits into the issue of waiting. The way it works is you just pray over and over and over until you wear God out. And the way it works is he just finally gives you what you have asked for to get you off his back. Is that the point? Would that be the point of this story? No. {?} yeah, because Jesus explained it. He said:

Hear what the unrighteous judge *said; now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly.⁸

And the point is: God isn't anything at all like this unjust judge. That is why you can pray and not lose heart, because he is willing to bring about justice for his people and he won't delay long over them. The polar opposite is the case with him. He will bring justice for his people quickly. The point here isn't just keep praying over and over and wear God out like the widow did to the wicked judge. The point is—please get it, because I know we kind of go round and round logically because that is the kind of parable is—the point is, pray and live expectantly, believing that God can answer your prayer and believing that God will....

Please don't miss the way this parable ends. Yes, he will bring about justice for them quickly, however this is what we need to hear.

"However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"⁹

See, the question isn't: Will God do his part? The question is: Will we do ours? Will we wait well? Will he find faith on the earth?

⁶ Luke 18:2.

⁷ Luke 18:3-5.

⁸ Luke 18:6-8.

⁹ Luke 18:8.

We could multiply passages of Scripture for a long time this morning that say essentially the same thing that God wants us to live and God wants us to pray with expectancy. Waiting well, like this passage, James 5:16:

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.”¹⁰

I want to quote a couple of lines from Steven Fredrick’s book *Sun, Stand Still*. Whenever I quote from a book that doesn’t mean that we would agree with every last... that is not the point right now. Some interesting lines, though, from a chapter entitled, “Prayer like a Juggernaut.” Just a sample of what he said. Here is what it means to pray like this. Pray prayers worthy of the God we are praying to. After all, we are praying to a God whose capability always exceeds our audacity. You don’t have to worry about putting God in an awkward or embarrassing position. You are not going to back him into a corner. You won’t ever challenge him to do something beyond his aptitude.

He said later, “Prayer is the arena where our faith meets God’s abilities. There is never going to be a moment where the audacity of our faith surpasses God’s capacity to respond. That is why timid prayers are a waste of time.”

Sure we have to balance that out with the important truth that biblical and legitimate prayer is always done in Jesus’ name, meaning that we always pray, Lord, according to your will and by your timing, by your overall plan. But even putting that into balance and then trying to think about this, Jesus’ question to them still stands to us today. Will he find faith on the earth?

In other words, after you have prayed for something, is your view of something really that God will bring about justice quickly? By his definition, yes, and in his way, yes, but God is capable. He is different than the unrighteousness judge. And some of God’s people, they don’t even bother praying, because they think God is like that unjust judge and he is not worth talking to. Or they pray a time or two, but then they get tired of waiting on the Lord and they kick into their own mode. Then when God comes to work the person is nowhere to be found. Will he find faith on the earth?

Long range faithfulness is a commodity that you ought to jump to your knees to and pray and ask God to give you. Will he find faith on the earth?

I have seen that in counseling so many times where you are working with a person whose spouse is heading the wrong direction. Many times in counseling we are not able to work with both husband and wife at the same time, because the other person won’t come. The other person is off, heading their own ... they are on a bad path and so you are working with one individual. And you say to them, “Well, let’s pray. Let’s pray for your wayward spouse. Let’s pray right now that God will help that person turn around and repent. And now since I only have you to talk to in this particular situation, there is no reason focusing on all that other person’s failures. There is no reason gossiping about that other

¹⁰ James 5:16.

person, et cetera, et cetera. So right now let's just work on you. Let's work on using the pain of this situation as an opportunity to draw you closer to Christ and let's use this as an opportunity for you to identify areas in your life that you need to change and grow. And let's focus on what we can focus on, the beauty of getting to a better place in your relationship with Jesus and your Christ like character. Let's work on that while we wait and let's see what God is going to do. No value in gossiping about that other person. No value in trying to focus all your time on their failures, et cetera.

And I am not talking about gross immorality where there might be grounds for divorce. I am not talking about any of that this morning. But it is amazing to me how many times this dynamic has occurred, where eventually that person—and maybe it is a couple of weeks, maybe it is a couple of months—but the person who is heading the wrong direction calls and says, “Listen, I have messed up. I have been wrong. I have... I want to repent. I want to turn around.”

And, of course, I am praising God and saying, “Absolutely. God has answered our prayers.” I just cannot wait. Thank you so much. We are going to get together and we are going to talk and obviously the next phone call is going to be to who? To spouse number one, the person I had... they are great news, great news. Your honey wants to repent. Your honey wants to get to a better place. We are going to be able to put this back together.

I cannot tell you how many times there has been silence on the phone. And then that person eventually says, “Oh, well, I found somebody else now. I met so and so at the bar when we were doing the boot, scoot and boogie on Saturday night.”

Seriously I thought you were going to be praying to Jesus so you are ready for Sunday morning. What are you talking about? Not waiting very well is what that is all about. Talking about living expectantly and waiting well, believing that God can and believing that God will. Again, in his time, according to his power, but living in such a way that when Jesus comes in the sense of coming to answer that particular prayer, he finds us with faith on the earth.

Maybe you don't believe you are being treated fairly at work right now and you are praying about that. Well, if you don't think that prayer is going to go anywhere, you very well may start to take matters into your own hands, huh? And so you started planning revenge and you started working the gossip circuit and you have fallen into bitterness and despair. And then Jesus comes to answer that particular prayer and he doesn't find faith on the earth, which, by the way, remember how Psalms tied waiting together with strength. And when God comes to answer that prayer and we have not waited well, that is not strong. That is weak. That is lame. Can we say it this morning?

But what is the opposite? You are experiencing injustice at work and you pray with expectancy. You believe that he will keep his promise to bring about justice quickly and you don't know what the definition of quick is in your situation and you don't have to know. And you don't know exactly how he is going to work that out and you don't have

to know. But all of that frees you up to go deeper in your relationship with him while you wait and it frees you up to focus on how you can be a more godly employee, even in an unjust employment situation. Through that process you are becoming stronger and stronger because you are waiting and praying with expectancy and when the Son of Man comes, so to speak, in your situation to answer your prayer and bring about justice, he found faith on the earth, because you were waiting well.

Steven Ferdick also said this. “Prayer is rarely all we can do. We can pray and prepare. We can ask God to intervene and we can initiate changes in our lives to make it happen. We can ask the Lord to fight for us and we can pull out our swords and start fighting in his strength. Sun, stand still prayers are integrated prayers. They join our faith filled prayer with our faith filled action.”

There is a lot of truth in that. Expectant prayer waits well by doing what you need to do as part of what God intends to do.

Now let’s push it a step further. We are also to live with humility, according to this passage. This story, too, begins with the stated point. I love it when God’s Word does this for us. You don’t even have to wonder why is that in the Bible. And so the verse says he told that parable to some people, this is the second one we are talking about now:

“... who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt.”¹¹

How did it go? Both of those characteristics are going to make it very difficult to wait for the Lord. So think about it. There was the Pharisee’s prayer.

The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’¹²

How many times did we read the word I in that one short prayer? And remember this. Here is the point. If I am the center of my universe and if God exists to give me what I want on my timetable, then I am not going to be particularly interested in waiting for him, because after all, God is pretty lucky he got me. I am not like other people. I fast twice a week. I pay tithes of all that I Get. So let’s get busy, God, answering these prayers of mine on my timetable, because I have got places to go and people to see, thank you very much. Wow. Proud people don’t wait well. Like I have to wait two people in line at Meyer? Don’t you know who I am?

Contrast that to the... by the way, why did we chuckle at that? I saw you.

¹¹ Luke 18:9.

¹² Luke 18:11-12.

“But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’”¹³

And you better believe that included the heart cry of, “On whatever timetable you desire, Lord, in whatever fashion.”

I would never let my impatience presume upon your sovereign authority in my life. See, that was Elizabeth Eliot’s point. She said, “I realize that the deepest spiritual lessons are not learned by his letting us have our way in the end, but by him making us wait, bearing with us in love and patience until we are able to honestly pray what he taught to his disciples to pray, thy will be done.”

It is interesting the way this chapter is organized, because you get this little vignette next of these disciples not allowing people to bring their children to Christ. And they were viewing other people with contempt, just like the proud Pharisees.

Now thread some of it together. Just think about the logic of this text. We have the end of chapter 17 speaking about the importance of learning how to wait well, followed by the first parable about at all times praying and not losing heart and immediately followed by a second parable about those who trust in themselves that they are righteous and view other people with contempt.

What are the take aways? Well, one of them is people who live with humility will leave the details and timetable up to a sovereign God. Lord, I am just thankful to be part of your family. Be merciful to me a sinner, this humble man said. If you never answer another prayer you have already given me more grace than I deserve. So forget my timetable. I will just wait.

By the way, if you have never trusted Christ as Savior and Lord, if you are like this Pharisee, I am the one who is going to earn eternal life on my own, I am a good person and I have never done this, this or this or I have always done that, that or that. I hope you are hearing the clarity of the gospel this morning that we all sin and fall short of the glory of God. And it is only by trusting Christ as Savior and Lord that we could be reconciled to him and only be in a position where we could then wait well. People who live with humility will leave the details and the timetable up to a sovereign God. I recognize your position in this equation and I recognize mine.

Also people who live with humility will understand that the reason God may be holding off the answer we desire—try this on for size—is because he is currently working in the life of a person many others hold in contempt. And he wants you to be part of the answer.

See, why hasn’t God given you that new job yet? Maybe it is because he wants to do a work of grace in the life of that boss where you work right now that you and everybody

¹³ Luke 18:13.

else have been holding in contempt. And if God wanted to use you in the life of that contemptuous boss, would you wait for him to work out his plan even if it meant you had to suffer longer? Humble people wait well. Why is God allowing you to be wrapped up in all of this administrative red tape?

One of the interesting things about Faith West is we have had the marvelous privilege of dealing with all sorts of government officials on all levels and many of them marvelous, wonderful people to work with. Not all of them. And I... you know, I am not real good at the waiting thing. But, in case you are wondering, is pastor Viars delivering this message because he is perfect at the topic on which he is speaking, if that is a requirement, strike me dead. I mean, no, no. And I am not real good at the whole waiting thing with people who are on the government dole. In fact, I will just say it. But I need to get better, huh? I need to get better. And if Jesus wants us to wait five years before we find out what kind of sink to put in our kitchen over there, why, we are going to see every sink manufacturer and government official come to know Jesus in the process. And then we will open Faith West and it will all be full. I mean just...

See, if you despise people, if you hold them in contempt, you may not care about how ministry to them fits into the story as long as your requests are fulfilled on your timetable. Boy, that is weak. Strength says, "Lord, I would like to have a new job, but only after all the ministry you wanted me to accomplish here is completed. Lord, I would want that particular prayer to be answered, but only after all the ministry you have to accomplish in my life and everybody else in this situation during the period of waiting is completed."

Don't hold people in contempt and cause that to make you impatient.

By the way, you might say, "But, pastor Viars, aren't we supposed to love the sinner and hate the sin? I mean, I hold him in contempt, but it is not really them. It is their sin."

I don't know much about this guy right here. I see him... people post his stuff. I think he is a comedian. This did catch me. He is right about this. Love the sinner, hate the sin. How about love the sinner, hate your own sin? I don't have time to hate your sin. There are too many of you. Hating my sin is a full time job. How about you hate your sin. I will hate my sin and let's just love each other.

Now that needs to be balanced, too. I know. Don't send me emails about that. But I am just simply saying. Some of us are impatient people, because we hold others in contempt who are standing in the way of us getting what we want right now.

One more. Live with expectancy. Live with humility. And, lastly, live with focus. Now you have got this third story and I obviously don't have time to talk about it as much as we could. But you have this question.

"Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"¹⁴

¹⁴ Luke 18:18.

And right out of the blocks it is the wrong question. There is nothing anyone can do to earn eternal life. That is why we need a Savior. But he wasn't ready to hear that. So Jesus shocks the fire out of him or at least tries to.

“Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments.”¹⁵

That is shocking on at least two counts. One, why would Jesus say, “Why are you calling me good?” And the point is you obviously don't believe I am the Son of God or you wouldn't be asking how you could receive eternal life. You would be asking how you could... or you wouldn't be asking how you could earn eternal life. You would be asking how you could receive it from me. In a sense, there is only one person who is good. That is God himself. And you don't believe I am God. Therefore don't call me good. That is the point of that quick.

And then Jesus said, “Keep the commandments.” Why? Because you earn eternal life by keeping the commandments? That would violate everything we know about the biblical gospel. Well, because the law, the commandments were given to help us understand how we fall short. And the man in his outrageous response, “Well, I have kept all those.” He believed honestly that he could still earn his way to heaven by being good. And Jesus said, “Oh, really? You think you haven't ever coveted one time? Why don't you try this? Go sell all you possessions,” not that selling your possessions now is the way to earn your way to heaven, but to help him understand that ... not also that having things was wrong, but that not considering parting with them demonstrates that he had a covetous heart.

And what is the application of that parable for us? Some times the reason Jesus allows us to wait is because the process allows for a period of clarification. See, what are you really rusting for your salvation? And if you know Christ, what are you seeking as your source of joy?

And here is a hard question. Are you ready for a hard question to end the sermon? You know that thing you are waiting for. What if you never get it in this life? Can you still find your joy and satisfaction in Christ alone? That was the point.

“...there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times as much at this time and in the age to come, eternal life.”¹⁶

I didn't think I would have time to talk with you about that healing of the blind man other than to say, “Do you realize that he exemplifies everything that we have talked about this morning? He came to Jesus and his prayer was out loud, man. And he came with expectancy. He came with humility. And he came with focus. Jesus found faith on the earth.

¹⁵ Luke 18:19-20.

¹⁶ Luke 18:29-30.

The question for us is going to be: As he watches the way we wait, the challenge of me preaching on a topic like this is it is highly likely that a couple of thousand people in Lafayette, Indiana are now going to have a lot of opportunities to wait this week. I should have preached on how to handle winning the lottery or something. But we are probably going to have opportunities to wait this week. The question is that when Jesus comes to eventually answer that prayer, maybe even this week, too, will he find faith on the earth?

Let's stand together for prayer, shall we?

Father in heaven, I thank you for the opportunity to think about your Word today. Lord, it is convicting. It just convicted. But thank you that at the end of that line of conviction if we will repent and change, if we will turn around there is a God of grace and mercy who will help us learn how to wait well. And so, Father, whatever decision we would need to make, whatever correction we would need to make, whatever opportunities to be a doer of the Word that would come from this, I pray that we would seize them and in so doing, as we wait on you, I pray that we would be strong and of good courage. We pay these things in Jesus' name. Amen.