

“The Purpose in Waiting”

“Nobody has a perfect life and it's entirely possible that if you want someone else's life, they are busy wanting someone else's too—maybe even yours.”

Joyce Meyer

Living in tension

Leviticus 18:1-3 NLT

¹Then the LORD said to Moses, ²“Give the following instructions to the people of Israel. I am the LORD your God. ³So do not act like the people in Egypt, **where you used to live**, or like the people of Canaan, **where I am taking you**. You must not imitate their way of life.

Between Resurrection and Ascension

Acts 1:3 NLT

³ During the **forty days after he suffered and died**, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he **proved to them** in many ways that he was actually alive. And he **talked to them** about the Kingdom of God.

The gap is not empty – preparation...

1 Corinthians 15:4-7 NLT

⁴ He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. ⁵ He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve.

⁶ After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷ Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles.

Resetting uncertainty

John 21:4-7 NLT

⁴ At dawn Jesus was standing on the beach, but the **disciples couldn't see who he was.** ⁵ He called out, "Fellows, have you caught any fish?" "No," they replied. ⁶ Then he said, "Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you'll get some!" So they did, and they couldn't haul in the net because there were so many fish in it. ⁷ Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, "It's the Lord!" ...Simon Peter ...put on his tunic (for he had stripped for work), jumped into the water, and headed to shore.

Making time to serve

John 21:8-12 NLT

⁸ The others stayed with the boat and pulled the loaded net to the shore... ⁹ When they got there, they found breakfast waiting for them—fish cooking over a charcoal fire, and some bread.

¹⁰ “Bring some of the fish you’ve just caught,” Jesus said. ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore. There were 153 large fish, and yet the net hadn’t torn. ¹² “Now come and have some breakfast!” Jesus said...

Restored calling

John 21:15-17 NLT

¹⁵ After breakfast Jesus asked... “Simon son of John, **do you love me more than these?**” “Yes, Lord,” Peter replied, “you know I love you.” “Then feed my lambs,”...

¹⁶ ...“**Simon son of John, do you love me?**” “Yes, Lord,” Peter said, “you know I love you.” “Then take care of my sheep,”...

¹⁷ A third time .., “**Simon son of John, do you love me?**” Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Then feed my sheep.”

The gap has purpose

Acts 1:7-9_{NIV}

⁷ He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But **you will receive power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' ⁹ After he said this, **he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.**

Living a resurrected life

Colossians 3:1-3 NLT

¹ Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, **set your sights** on the realities of heaven... ² Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.

³ For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.

Discussion Questions

1. How does comparison affect your ability to trust God during seasons of waiting?
2. The disciples lived in the “gap” between resurrection and ascension. What kind of “in-between” season are you currently in, and how does it challenge your faith?
3. What might God be developing in you during your current waiting season?
4. In John 21, Jesus meets the disciples in uncertainty and restores Peter’s calling. How have you experienced God meeting you or redirecting you in uncertain moments?
5. “The gap has purpose” and leads to being empowered for mission. How can you actively live a “resurrected life” while still waiting for what’s next?

“The Purpose in Waiting”