

WAITING QUIETLY

12 • 19 • 2025

LAMENTATIONS 3:25-26

It seems odd to use a verse from Lamentations for an Advent devotional. After all, Christmas is the furthest from something lamentable as you can get. It's about joy, celebration, freedom, salvation, the King of all creation entering our world, and it's about God's undying love for us. That is the best news, and the best gift, we could ever receive. So why use a verse from this book? Well, it's because we are speaking of Advent, and Advent is quite literally a period of waiting—waiting for precisely the salvation of the Lord. Exactly what this verse describes.

But the process of waiting can be hard. And this concept of “waiting quietly” can seem equally as mysterious. What does it mean to wait quietly? For many of us, the most difficult thing about waiting is to do it patiently. We may know that God is in control, and we may believe fully that he is sovereign and perfect in his plan, but how often do we still struggle against that? To truly just wait until his ways are known? We begin to grow impatient the longer the waiting takes, and many of us grasp for some kind of control over the situation. We revert to our sinful belief that we can make what we think is best occur. We believe that we still need to do something to bring these plans to fruition. It's so hard for us to truly remove ourselves from the equation.

Perhaps by looking at this concept of “waiting quietly” through the lens of Advent, we can be encouraged to use this time to ask God to help us not to fall into impatience as we so often do. During Advent we are waiting for the gift of Christ and the salvation that he brings. There is no way our human souls can do anything to overcome the sin of the world, and therefore this period of waiting for Christ must be done quietly. We have no other alternative; there is no human work in this Christmas event that we are waiting for. All we can do is sit back, “hope in him,” and “wait quietly” for the salvation we could never deserve. That's the very nature of the gospel.

So, this season, ask God to help you experience this period of waiting in a quiet manner, knowing there is nothing you can do to bring about the gift of his salvation. See what that feels like, be present to the truth of the gospel, and as other periods of waiting come about in your life where you feel that pull to jump in and take control, remember what it feels like to wait quietly as we do during Advent. Let our God carry you through whatever you are waiting on just as he does during Advent.

PRAYER

Lord, we hope in you. We trust in you. We wait quietly and patiently for the gift of your Son. The perfect gift, the perfect king, the Messiah you have promised from the beginning. Help us to slow down, rest, and wait quietly. There is nothing we can do other than that. Thank you for loving us. Amen.



BY MATT KERR
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LET HIM IN

Luke 2:1-20

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

FAMILY SERVICE | 4PM

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE | 7 + 11PM