

20. Wait Until You Get to the Corner

A young pastor called an older pastor for help. The young pastor was going through a time of discouragement, uncertainty and disappointment. He was anxious, restless, unsettled and impatient. He was impatient with the members of his congregation, impatient with himself and with the Lord. He asked, "What does the Lord have in mind for me? How long does He want me to be here in this place? Why doesn't He give me some sign, some clue?"

The older pastor thought of *Isaiah 28:16*: "He that believes shall not make haste." In his opinion the young pastor was "making haste." He went on to say, "You are asking all kinds of questions. Why don't you **wait until you get to the corner**?" After a long pause the young pastor asked, "What do you mean that I should **wait until I get to the corner**?"

Asked if there was an envelope within his reach, he said, "You won't believe this, but I have one in my hand." The older pastor said, "Look at the top left hand corner. That's where you started when you were called and installed as pastor of your congregation. Now, run your hand along the top edge of that envelope from left to right. I don't know how far along the path you have come, I only know that you haven't reached the corner as yet. You wonder what the Lord has in store for you. Again, I say, **wait until you get to the corner**. You see," he went on to say, "when the Lord gives us a task He need not grant us additional guidance until we have finished the task at hand. It was a divine call that placed you where you are. You may think that you are finished, but the Lord obviously does not. So, don't "make haste", but wait until you get to the corner. In the meantime, "Take the task He gives you gladly, let His work your pleasure be."

All of us, at times, grow weary of waiting and we become anxious, troubled, impatient and discontented. We get in a hurry. There is such a thing as holy waiting that is good, essential and necessary. Maybe we are like the Apostle Paul who wrote, "I have LEARNED....to be content." *Philippians 4:11*. Patience and contentment wasn't something that came naturally; it was something that Paul had to learn. Let us pray for patience and strive to learn to be content. The Psalmist gives us some good, sound instructions when he says, "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; yea, wait for the Lord!" *Ps. 27:14*. And here's a great reminder, *Psalms 37:7*: "Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; fret not yourself." The holy writer reminds us, "They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength." *Isaiah 40:31*. "The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul that seeks Him." *Lamentations 3:25*. May the language of our hearts be that of the prophet of old, "I will wait for the Lord....and I will hope in Him." *Isaiah 8:17*.

All of us must be patient and **wait until we get to the corner**, and when we do, the Lord will, then, let us see the next part of our life's pathway. There's a line in a song, "I will go, Lord, where you want me to go." We might add, "And I will stay, Lord, where you want me to stay." And when we know that we are at a place and in a position because God has put us there, it takes a lot of stress out of it. In the meantime, it is best that we proceed without hurry or worry. Work the works of Him who placed us where we are. Faithfully serve Him where we are and we will not be led into foolishness nor fanaticism. And when we get to the corner the Lord will point which way to turn, and he will walk beside us all the way. Let us, then, **wait until we get to the corner!**

Wait Until You Get to the Corner

We Begin

L: We gather in the name of God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
G: We gather as His children.

We Search Scriptures - Lamentations 3:21-26

Leader (L) and Group (G)

L: Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
G: I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."
L: The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

We Meditate

Follow this outline as the meditation is presented

- † An impatient young pastor's question.
- † A wise older pastor's advise.
- † Wait patiently.
- † Without hurry or worry, do God's work where you are.

We Respond

L: Because of the Lord's great love
G: We have help from Him when we are discouraged.

L: Because the Lord's compassion never fail
G: We have rest from Him when we are restless.

L: Because the Lord is faithful
G: We have assurance from Him when we are doubting.

L: Because the Lord is good to those whose hope is in Him
G: We can wait patiently for Him.

L: Because of the Lord's great love
G: Therefore we have hope in Him.

We Pray

Sometimes we get so impatient, God, that our attitude is, "Give me patience, Lord, and I want it NOW!" We usually are in such a hurry that we don't like to wait - not for anything or anyone, including You. Help us to wait patiently for Your help, Your comfort, Your strength, Your answers, and finally, Your gift of salvation. And help us to trust You while we wait. Amen.

