

Just Waiting Around? For What!?

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Bible Matters Sources)

Introduction

- A. Every generation waits for someone to take the initiative
 - 1. If things must be done, someone must be willing to do them
 - 2. We look around for someone who will stand up and point the way
 - 3. Yet that person rarely comes around, and things do not change
 - 4. Then the next generation comes, waiting for the same leader
 - 5. A few qualified Republicans are waiting around for someone to step up and challenge the current misguided administration, rather than stepping up themselves and running for nomination
- B. Ironically, the ones waiting around are equipped to do the job they are waiting for others to undertake
 - 1. Stop waiting and take the initiative

The Story of Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody: There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody would do it but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

I. FOR WHOM ARE YOU WAITING?

- A. For generations, Israel awaited the Messiah from God - Luke 2:25, 38
 - 1. When Jesus came, few believed in Him, because He was not the Messiah for which they waited
 - 2. The Jews are still waiting for Him
- B. When Jesus was on the cross, the Jews waited to see what would happen
 - 1. Matt. 27:49; Mark 15:36
- C. As Christians, we await our Savior from Heaven
 - 1. 1Cor. 1:7; Phil. 3:20-21; Gal. 5:5; 1Thes. 1:10; Titus 2:13; Heb. 9:28
- D. For what else are Christians waiting?
 - 1. Some are waiting for others to do the work of bringing souls to the Lord
 - 2. Others are waiting for people to step up and teach Bible classes
 - 3. Some are hoping someone will step up to be appointed to become elders and deacons
 - 4. A few are waiting for the preacher or elders to tell them what they are supposed to do with their lives
 - 5. Far too many qualified disciples look around for those they consider "more mature" Christians to do the work and take the leadership
 - 6. Perhaps they should recognize themselves as the ones for whom they have been waiting

II. STEPPING FORWARD IN CHRIST

- A. While the preacher encourages and teaches brethren, and elders shepherd the flock, every Christian has the obligation to grow for himself

- B. Each Christian, despite his or her spiritual age, is to work in the Kingdom
 - 1. Gal. 3:27-28 - We have all put on Christ
 - 2. Heb. 5:12 - 6:1 - We are all expected to grow in Christ
- C. How do Christians mature?
 - 1. Heb. 5:14 - by constant practice
 - 2. Christianity is not merely learned; it must be lived to be understood
 - 3. While you will gain some understanding from hearing the Word and by observing the examples of others, you will not get complete understanding until you practice it long term
 - 4. 1Cor. 11:1; 1John 2:6
- D. In the end, we are the ones for whom we have been waiting.
 - 1. Consider the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11. Who will say that their faith in God is stronger than theirs? - Heb. 11:39-40, 12:1-2
 - 2. The mantle has fallen to us; it is our duty to take it up and go forward

III. HOW CAN YOU STEP UP?

Christ has no hands but our hands
 To do His work today;
 He has no feet but our feet
 To lead men in His way;
 He has no tongue but our tongue
 To tell men how He died;
 He has no help but our help
 To bring them to His side.

We are the only Bible
 The careless world will read;
 We are the sinners gospel,
 We are the scoffer's creed;
 We are the Lord's last message,
 Given in deed and word;
 What if the type is crooked?
 What if the print is blurred?

What if our hands are busy
 With other work than His?
 What if our feet are walking
 Where sin's allurements is?
 What if our tongues are speaking
 Of things His lips would spurn?
 How can we hope to help Him
 And hasten His return?

~Annie Johnson Flint~

“Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men” - 2Cor. 3:2

- A. So how will you personally respond when you are aware that disciples have drifted away or there are sinners needing taught in your local congregation?
 - 1. Do you wait and see what will happen?
 - 2. Or go out and encourage the struggling and erring?
 - a. Heb. 10:24; Gal. 6:1-2; James 5:19-20
 - 3. Do you find someone to teach the Gospel?
 - b. Matt. 28:18-20; Rom. 1:16
- B. If we are not the salt of the earth, or the light of the world, how will the erring and lost find their way to the Lord?
 - 1. Matt. 5:13-16
- C. Are you aware that the solution for weakness, discouragement, sorrow, falling, anger, and fear is the same thing?
 - 1. Get busy - Phil. 3:13-14
- D. What are we waiting for?
 - 1. The cavalry coming over the hill, a knight in shining armor on a white charger, the hero to come bursting onto the scene?
 - 2. Or do we realize that today is the day we are called to step forward, take the initiative, and put our own hands to the matter
 - 3. What do you say of the hero in book or film who sits back vacillating wanting someone else to step forward?
 - 4. What did the Lord say of such a one in the NT? - Matt. 25:14-30
- E. Our Master has departed, and we await His return; we are the servants entrusted with His goods and works.
 - 1. Will we wait for someone else to step up, or will we recognize that we are the ones for whom we have been waiting around to accomplish God's purposes right now?