

Series: Waiting For Christmas
Title: Part 2: God in the Meantime
Date: December 9/10, 2017
Speaker: Phil Vaughan

Big Idea: We're all waiting for something... something that we hope will make our lives better than they are today. Most of us become frustrated with that period of waiting, sometimes taking actions we live to regret. In his message this past weekend, Phil taught that there's actually great value in the act of waiting; and that much of what God wants to do in our lives happens while we wait.

Passage: Micah 5:1-4; Luke 2:4-7

Discuss It:

1. Talk about how you plan a vacation. Do you plan every moment of every day with a detailed agenda, or do you leave the schedule open so you can decide what to do in the moment? Do you meticulously pack your luggage days ahead of time or do you throw a few things in the suitcase on the way out the door? How do your habits compare to those of the people you travel with?
2. In his message this past weekend, Phil asked the question, "What are YOU waiting for?" What goal, dream, or hope are you currently pursuing? (Perhaps a promotion or a career change, an improvement in your family relationships, a goal for your own personal growth, etc.).

How long have you been waiting? How much control do you have over the outcome?

How would you describe your attitude toward the wait? (ie., patient, hopeful, irritated, insecure, doubt, helplessness, despair, resignation, apathy, etc.).

3. **Read Psalm 37:7 and James 5:7.** Most of us agree that patience is a positive character trait. And yet, as Phil mentioned, we usually believe that waiting is a waste of time. Think back to some things you've waited for in the past. When did a period of waiting actually turn out to be a good thing? When was it a legitimate waste of time?
4. **Read Micah 5:1-4 and Luke 2:4-7.** 700 years passed between this prophecy about Jesus and its fulfillment! In his message, Phil said, "When we misunderstand what waiting is about, we can get confused about how God works." When God has the power to do otherwise, why do you think he allows his plans to develop over long spans of time?
5. **Read Micah 6:8.** Phil ended his message with a followup to the question in #2 above: "HOW are you waiting?" How should we live in the meantime between now and the fulfillment of our dreams? How does Micah 6:8 point us in the right direction? How might that change something about your own experience of waiting in the present?

Apply It:

- What is the one thing you need to take away from this study?
- What will help you remember it?
- Is there anything that needs to change in your thinking, actions, or relationships as a result?