

SERMON SERIES

JOHN | BEHOLD HIM

John 1:35–51 • Believe: Transformational Waiting

MAIN IDEA

Transformational waiting is a time of hope and anticipation concerning the promises of God. In these periods of waiting you can either choose to waste the wait, or you can let God strengthen you through the season of waiting.

BACKGROUND

In verse 41 Andrew tells Peter, “We have found the Messiah.” Israel had been looking for four hundred years, the “400 silent years” between Malachi and John the Baptist, with no prophetic word from God. Meanwhile God was moving: Rome built the roads, Koine Greek gave everyone a common language, and travel was safe enough to carry the gospel. The wait was not wasted.

01 Transformational Waiting Leads to Decision vv. 35–39

Do you really believe what you say? If you do, then when the moment of decision arrives, you act accordingly.

- John the Baptist believed Jesus was the Messiah, so he handed his own disciples over to Him. Where is believing something costing you right now?
- Jesus said, “Come and you will see.” What would it look like to follow Him in this moment, and the next, instead of waiting for the whole plan?

02 Transformational Waiting Leads to Discovery vv. 41–45, 50–51

Andrew did not argue his brother into belief; he brought him to Jesus. Being with Jesus is what had convinced Andrew.

- Verses 41 and 45 carry the same announcement: “we have found.” They were looking while they were waiting. What are you looking for in this season?
- Nathanael came with questions, and Jesus answered them, and he was amazed. What question about God are you carrying right now that you have not said out loud?

03 Transformational Waiting Leads to Discipleship v. 43

Jesus found Philip and said, “Follow Me.” The aim of every waiting season God allows is to shape us into His image.

- Psalm 27 shows three ways to wait on the Lord: trusting Him (vv. 1–2), seeking Him (vv. 4–6), and praying to Him (vv. 7–14). Which of the three is hardest for you, and why?
- Isaiah 64:4 says God acts for those who wait for Him. Where has God already used a wait to change you, and who needs to hear that story?

THIS WEEK

Name one thing you are waiting on. Instead of asking God to hurry, ask Him what He is building in you, then take one step of obedience you already know to take.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, teach us to trust You, seek You, and pray while we wait. Do not let us waste this season. Shape us into the image of Your Son.