

WAITING WITH LOVE

Psalm 130:6

Luke 12:35-48

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- How does Christmas help us be ready for Christ's second coming?
- What do you think it means to wait for Christ's second advent with love? What does it look like?

In his book *Oh, the Places You'll Go*, Dr. Seuss writes about a useless place he calls "the waiting place." He calls it useless, because everyone is just waiting, passively waiting. But Advent waiting is anything but useless. Christ has made explicitly clear to us what we as believers should do while we wait for his return. It's quite simple really; as Christians we wait with love, and that simple "with love" makes our waiting active. Studying Jesus Christ's parabolic instruction to his disciples gives us an understanding of how our waiting with love also prepares us and keeps us ready for Christ's second advent into our world.

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- Ultimately, what God wants most from us is our hearts, one way we demonstrate that we've given our hearts to him is by loving a needy and broken world just as his Son does. How are you giving or how can you give of yourself to a needy and broken world? What does this have to do with imitating Christ?
- How are you training for Christ's second coming? What are you doing to stay alert and ready, or as host Dave Bast said in segment 2, to keep your relationship with God "in good working order and be about the business that He wants you to do"?
- List the simple, mundane things you do daily. Think about how those things show love and responsibly manage the gifts he's given you and the people for which he wants you to care. Are there additional ways you feel he's calling you to wait with love?
- How are you being a steward of the gift of faith God has given you?

Related Passages

- **Mark 13:32-35**
- **John 3:16**
- **John 13:34-35**
- **John 13:12-17**
- **Philippians 2:1-8**
- **1 John 2:3-6**

Conclusion

Consider these words from Point of Grace's Christmas song "When Love Came Down":

Close your eyes and share the dream
That everyone on Earth believe
A Child was born the stars shown bright
And love came down at Christmas time
And love came down at Christmas time...

We're alive we can breathe but do we
Really care for this world in need?
There's a choice we must make
Each and every day.

God's love came to us in Christ at Christmas. His salvation plan unfolded and through his Holy Spirit, he's given us the gift of faith to sustain us as we eagerly anticipate his promised return. Celebrate the simple, mundane ways you are answering Christ's call on your life. Pray for the Spirit's prompting for additional ways you can love our needy, broken world. Consider your habits and routine; think about creating a calendar alert, hanging a picture or a verse, writing a poem, or something unique to you that will remind you to wait actively, with love, for Christ's return.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/waiting-with-love>

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