

Meeting God While We Wait

Rich Nathan

February 24-25, 2007

Meeting God in the Psalms Series

Psalm 40

I have been doing a series from the book of Psalms over the past couple of months, a series that I've titled "Meeting God in the Psalms." I've repeatedly pointed out that there is no other book in the Bible that more people have turned to over the centuries during times of trial, during times of grief, when we are struggling and when we are happy – there is no other book in the Bible that people have turned to more often to meet with God than the book of Psalms.

The book of Psalms gives language to our feelings when we are struggling with language. The book of Psalms communicates to us that there is a fellow traveler in our journey. The psalmist comes alongside of us and puts his arm around us and says: I understand. I know how you feel. I've been there. And let me share with you how I found God when I was in the midst of a similar crisis.

I have repeatedly encouraged you during your own private times with God to begin to speak a few psalms out loud every day. Get in the habit of praying the psalms back to God. Make these words your own.

One of the places we find the psalms particularly beneficial is when God keeps us waiting. You know, one way to characterize 21st century America is that we are an instant society.

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Waiting in an instant society.

In America more than any other country in the world, we want it and we want it now. If any of you are world travelers, you've probably experienced the frustration that I do as an American traveling to other places. Other places are so inconvenient. You mean, I can't get aspirin and pajamas and a bag of oranges, and a snow tires at 11:00 p.m. at night from the same store? Why not? We are an instant society. We value speed over everything. We value speed over quality. We value speed over commitment.

There is a book out called *Faster: The Acceleration of Just About Everything* by James Gleick. He has really interesting examples about how everything in contemporary society has accelerated. Do you know they even have 1-minute bed-time stories for busy parents? You can literally complete the entire bed-time story for your child in one minute. The story of Three Bears? We only got one bear – the baby bear. Hansel and Gretel? We don't need Hansel, just Gretel.

Forget the Seven Dwarfs, the prince finds Snow White; he kisses her and she wakes up; they get married and live happily ever-after; the end.

You know, cutting to the chase on stories leaves a busy parent 15 seconds to pray for your son or daughter before you turn to something more valuable like *Desperate Housewives* or *Gray's Anatomy*.

Nowhere in our instant society is this more apparent than with respect to our two great national obsessions – weight loss and making money. Have you seen the titles on weight loss books? These are real titles. Listen.

SLIDES

- *Instant Weight Loss: Open Box and Lose Nine Inches Off Your Waist!*
- *60 Seconds to Weight Loss Success: One Minute Inspirations To Change Your Thinking, Your Weight, and Your Life*
- *Dear God Let Me Lose Fat, Amen.*
- *The Dieter's Guide to Weight Loss Before, During, And After Sex*
- *8-Minutes In the Morning For Extra-Easy Weight Loss: Guaranteed to Shed Two Pounds a Week (No Equipment Required, No Calorie Counting, No Deprivation)*

We Americans say: We're tired of our grandmother's advice about eating right and getting plenty of exercise. We want to lose 20 pounds and we want to do it before lunch!

And what about making money? If you punch in "get rich quick" on Amazon.com, they will give you 4900 book titles. 4900 books, books like:

SLIDES

- *Wealth Builders: Six "Get Rich Quick" Strategies That Work*
- *The Honest to Goodness Get Rich Quick Book*

Here is the one I love:

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- *The Automatic Millionaire: A Powerful One-Step Plan to Live and Finish Rich*

One step plan? How come you don't see any books titled:

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- *Ten Difficult Steps to Disciplining Yourself to Accumulate Wealth Slowly*
 - *Chapter 1: Stay In School As Long As You Can*

You know, college grads make on average \$25,000-35,000 more every year than high school grads.

SLIDES

- Chapter 2: Don't Goof Off While You Are in School
- Chapter 3: Work Hard At Your Job and Have a Great Attitude

You know, bosses love hard workers who have great attitudes.

SLIDES

- Chapter 4: Stop Spending, Stupid

You want to know why you are always in debt. It's because you are spending more money than you earn.

You never see books like that!

Get Rich Quick. That's what our government sells us with the lottery. I love our executive pastor, Craig Heselson's line regarding the lottery. He said the lottery is the only place where your odds are winning are exactly the same if you buy a ticket, or if you don't.

Get Rich Quick. I recently received an email from someone in Nigeria who I know specifically selected me out to give me \$10,600,000.00. And all I needed to do was to give him my bank account number.

The amazing thing about this newest email scam was that this guy claimed to be an attorney who wrote a will for a Christian man who wanted to dedicate all of his wealth to God. He said in the email,

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"Instead of giving the fund out for the work of God as instructed to me by the owner before his death, I converted the fund to myself with the intention of investing the fund abroad for my personal use. But I had a turn-around in my life a few weeks ago when I was watching a program on Trinity Broadcast Network. After hearing the Word of God, I gave my life to Christ and became a born-again Christian. I discovered that the only way I could have peace in my life is to what is lawful and right by giving out the fund to the chosen one as instructed by the owner before his death. After my long fasting and prayer, I have decided that you are the chosen one."

I think he meant you and the 600 million other people in the world who have email addresses are the chosen ones.

But in radical contrast to our instant society, the Bible presents us with a God who will not be rushed. And so we are forced to wait, and wait, and wait. I've called today's talk: Meeting God While We Wait. Let's pray.

SLIDE – Ps 40

1 For the director of music. Of David. A psalm. I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. 2 He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. 3 He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him. 4 Blessed are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods. 5 Many, Lord my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare. 6 Sacrifice and offering you did not desire— but my ears you have opened— burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require. 7 Then I said, “Here I am, I have come— it is written about me in the scroll. 8 I desire to do your will, my God; your law is within my heart.” 9 I proclaim your saving acts in the great assembly; I do not seal my lips, Lord, as you know. 10 I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness and your saving help. I do not conceal your love and your faithfulness from the great assembly. 11 Do not withhold your mercy from me, Lord; may your love and faithfulness always protect me. 12 For troubles without number surround me; my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see. They are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails within me. 13 Be pleased to save me, Lord; come quickly, Lord, to help me. 14 May all who seek to take my life be put to shame and confusion; may all who desire my ruin be turned back in disgrace. 15 May those who say to me, “Aha! Aha!” be appalled at their own shame. 16 But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who long for your saving help always say, “The Lord is great!” 17 But as for me, I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me. You are my help and my deliverer; you are my God, do not delay.

I’ve broken Psalm 40 up into two parts: vv. 1-10:

SLIDE – Ps 40:1-10 – I waited for the Lord and he heard my cry.

I waited for God and he heard my cry. And vv. 11-17

SLIDE – Ps 40:11-17 – I wait again.

We read these words in v. 1

SLIDE – Ps 40:1

I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry.

Now, the original Hebrew does not read:

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I waited patiently for the Lord...

It literally reads:

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I waited for, waited for the Lord...

I waited, waited. There is a doubling of the word “waited” for emphasis. Now, I have a fundamental assumption about life, an assumption that has grown out of more than three decades of Bible study, and more than three decades of leading and caring for people in the church. My fundamental assumptions about life is that there are two primary methods that God uses to grow us into the image of his Son Jesus. God is always in the business of reshaping us, re-forming us, bending us. The two primary methods that God uses to re-form and reshape a human being are pain and waiting.

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Waiting and God's Methods

If you ask a person: When did you make a turn around, when did you decide to really turn to God, almost always it is as a result of pain or waiting. When we are in pain; when we are waiting, we are forced to acknowledge that we are not in control of our destinies, that there is much in life that is beyond our control. It is during these periods of pain and waiting that God pries our hands open from the death grip that we have on some addiction, some idol, and invites us to turn to him.

There is a wonderful book that I want to commend to your attention. It may be among my top ten favorite Christian books of all time. It certainly is within in the top ten books that I've read in the last several years. The book is titled: *Authentic Faith* by Gary Thomas. And in the book Gary Thomas wonderfully explains that most Christian growth is not the result of our response to the things that we initiate, although that is a part of it. Most Christian growth is the result of things that are done to us by life and by God. Things that happen to us where we are put in the position of having to make a choice of whether or not to trust, whether or not to obey.

But my assumption about life is that waiting along with pain are the two primary tools that God uses in our lives to grow us spiritually. God regularly keeps people waiting. And God will not be rushed.

You see it everywhere in the Bible. Abraham is 75 years old when God promises him a child in Gen.12:4 and 7

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Ge 12:4 So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran.

Ge 12:7 The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

But God didn't give him a son immediately. Instead, he made Abram wait 25 more years before he fulfilled the promise. Genesis 17:15-17,

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Ge 17:15 God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. ¹⁶ I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her." ¹⁷ Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?"

God made the children of Israel wait for 400 years before he took them to the Promised Land. The nation of Israel had to wait for thousands of years before their long promised Messiah finally came.

The apostle Paul tells us that creation has been waiting for liberation from its fall for millennia. Romans 8:22-23,

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Ro 8:22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

We Christians are waiting for the return of Christ, for our resurrection bodies, and for the restoration of this earth. Christians are taught to wait till you meet a follower of Christ before you date. Christians are told to wait till marriage before you have sex. Christians are told to wait till marriage to have children.

We hate to wait. And yet, the Bible continually tells us that God will not be rushed and that one of the chief methods he uses to change us is that he makes us wait. It seems that waiting causes us to grow in ways that nothing else will.

Now, in v. 2 we read about waiting for God when we are in the pit:

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Waiting for God when we are in the pit.

SLIDE – Ps 40:2

2 He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.

David doesn't tell us what the particular pit was that he was in. We don't know if the pit was the pit of his own sin, of adultery with Bathsheba, that he wanted to be delivered from. Or the pit was the pit of having enemies, especially King Saul. Or if it was the pit of being betrayed by his own son, Absalom. Or if it was the pit of illness.

I'm glad that the pit is not specified here in Psalm 40. This psalm applies to anyone who finds themselves in a situation in which no amount of self-help can lift them out. The pit is any situation you find yourself in, in which your intelligence, your effort, your perseverance, your social contacts, your sunny disposition, whatever you are whatever you do, won't get you out of the pit.

The Bible speaks to us about literal pits on several occasions. Joseph, the favorite son of the patriarch Jacob, was thrown into a pit by his jealous brothers. Jeremiah, the prophet, was tossed into a pit by Israelite officials, who hated his prophecies of judgment. And it says about Jeremiah in Jeremiah 38.6,

SLIDE – Je 38:6

6...They lowered Jeremiah by ropes into the cistern; it had no water in it, only mud, and Jeremiah sank down into the mud.

What a picture – in the pit, sinking down into the mud. Unable to change things or fix things by your own power can. Any of you identify with this picture? Have any of you ever felt that you were down in the pits sinking into the mud? Any of you there today?

There are two situations that come to mind when we are waiting for God in the pit. The first is when we are waiting to God to answer our prayers. One of the most frustrating places for us in our relationship with God in an instant society is that God forces us to wait for answers to prayer. We say to God: God, answer this prayer for healing and heal right this moment. God, answer this prayer for a job and make this interview the one that opens all the doors. We say: God, my teenager is going away to a Christian camp this weekend. Have this weekend be the weekend that my teenager has the big turn around in their life. Let me see the salvation of my loved one during this particular crisis in their lives.

God makes us wait. And during this waiting time, God asks questions of you and me. Questions that we can't hear, except when we be forced to wait. God speaks to our spirits and says to us: Will you continually accuse me of not caring about you? Or not caring about your loved one? Will you continually accuse me of not being good or intending good? Will you constantly accuse me of playing games with you, promising and not delivering? Will you always accuse me of not knowing what is best for you, for this other person, for the world?

I'm going to underline this in a moment, but during times of waiting, God speaks to our souls and says: Will you trust me? During times of waiting, God speaks to

us and says: Will you always prescribe to me the method by which I must answer your prayer?

We say: Lord, save this person and here is how you need to do it. God, heal this person and here is the way you must heal the person. God, meet my needs financially and here is the specific door you must open for me.

It is not wrong to pray specifically, don't misunderstand me. But we do get into this demanding, prescribing spirit. And I've often felt God say: Are you trusting in this specific answer or are you trusting in me?

You know, friends, some of your Christian lives are such roller-coasters. You move from hope to despair so quickly because you are setting your hopes on a specific person, or a specific answer, or a particular prophetic word, rather than fixing your hope fully on God. I've said to the sick very often: Do not fix your hope on a prophetic word that you've received, or a specific prayer session that you undergo, particularly for the chronically ill, because you will go up and down like a yo-yo. That prophecy doesn't seem to be fulfilled in the way the person said it. That healing didn't happen in this particular prayer session.

I've given counsel to the chronically ill over and over and said: Set your hope fully in God. Certainly, open yourself up for healing right now and God's voice to you right now. But your hope is not in this particular word, or this particular prayer session. Your hope is in God. That is the only thing that rescues us from the roller-coaster.

The second place that we find ourselves in the pit is when we are waiting for growth. In our instant society, we spend years pounding addictions into our life and then we say to God: God, I'm ready for change; change me today. Pastors and counselors hear this all the time. "I don't know why God has not seen fit to immediately deliver me from my desire for alcohol, or the temptations I face regarding drugs, sex, or my sexual orientation, or my eating disorder. I don't know why God has been holding back on me when I have spent decades forging a certain character. Why have I not been delivered today?"

Friend, have you ever been frustrated with God because your growth is simply too slow? Pastors and Christian counselors hear this all the time, not only about individual growth, but also about marital change. I can't tell you how many people I have talked with over the years about their marriages who say: Well, we tried Christian counseling, but it didn't work for us. Really? You have spent 25 years forging incredibly destructive marital habits, fighting with one another like cats and dogs. You are carrying around truck-loads of grudges towards your mate, and it wasn't fixed in one counseling session? Well, clearly marital counseling is not the answer for you!

I've got to be honest with you and tell you that churches like ours that believe in healing and believe in deliverance, churches like the Vineyard that believe in the power of God, can often become very unhealthy if our faith in the immediate intervention of God is not coupled with a constant emphasis that most change in the vast majority of people's lives comes about slowly and painfully. We must be ruthlessly honest here in the Vineyard and say that there are very few stories of instant deliverance from pornography addiction, or substance abuse, or eating disorder. When I invite you forward for prayer at the end of my messages, my intention is to get you on the road of repentance, to get you to begin the journey of change; to begin the journey of forgiving others; the journey of repentance. But it is a very rare thing for someone in five minutes to complete the entire transaction.

And churches like ours need to couple the message of healing and deliverance with a strong caution that most change does not occur by the instant zap method. Most change is the result of a process where people intentionally commit themselves to the hard work of relying on God's grace and strength to help them change attitudes, or change behaviors. Christian growth is like the accumulation of wealth or weight loss. There are no easy one-step methods. That's why I appreciate organizations like AA. At least they are honest about the fact that there are going to be 12 difficult steps. And that change is probably not going to happen alone. It is going to happen in community. That kind of mindset needs to be adopted for every follower of Jesus at the Vineyard.

Praise God there is a day when we get to where we're going to be lifted out of the pit. Vv. 1-3

SLIDE – Ps 40:1-3

1 I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. 2 He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. 3 He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him.

We do get lifted out of the pit. We do get our feet put on a rock so that we can get some traction and make progress. Marriages do get healed. People are not only rescued from the brink of divorce, but by God's grace through ministries like our Marriage and Family ministry, people find themselves in love with each other again. But it doesn't generally happen by one counseling session.

So, how do we respond to God's general approach to his children – he keeps us waiting.

SLIDE

Waiting and Our Response.

SLIDE – Ps 40:4-5

4 Blessed are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods. 5 Many, Lord my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare.

Waiting and delays are always a test of our trust in God. It says in v. 4,

SLIDE – Ps 40:4

4 Blessed are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods.

There are two great alternatives to trusting in God. One is trusting in people, verse 4:

SLIDE – Ps 40:4

4 Blessed are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not look to the proud...

God doesn't seem to have an answer for me. God doesn't seem interested. I'm going to put my entire trust in this person and their counsel even though this person or this counselor in no way is communicating to me God's mind. The proud, or more literally, the blusterers, the boastful, the person who makes you feel stupid that you've been looking to God, the person who overpowers you and belittles your faith, the college professor, the professional counselor, the boss or coworker. A great temptation in times of waiting is to allow yourself to be overpowered by the proud instead of continuing to rely on God.

The second great temptation is to go after a lie. V. 4

SLIDE – Ps 40:4

4 Blessed are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods.

Literally,

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...to those who turn aside after a lie.

We have a choice in waiting, a choice to trust God, or in the alternative to escape into some soul-numbing addiction. See Jesus doesn't just want to save us from God's wrath against sin on the Day of Judgment. Jesus wants to satisfy us with soul quenching living water right now. He says: Are you getting thirsty while you wait?

SLIDE – Jn 7:37-38

37 On the last and greatest day of the Festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."

You know, when you continually turn to a lie, a lie about what you really need, a lie about what will bring you peace, you give that thing a power over your life and you open yourself up to demonic bondage. Waiting is the occasion for us to learn to find our satisfaction in Christ.

What are we to do instead of looking to the proud and escaping into lies? We are to trust in the Lord.

SLIDE – Ps 40:4-5

4 Blessed are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods.

What does it mean for us to trust in the Lord while we are waiting? Well, we certainly look back to the things God has done both in scripture and in our lives.

SLIDE – Ps 40:5

5 Many, Lord my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us.

We look back to God's proven ability to help us as he has helped others in scripture and as we have experienced in our own lives. There is a track record of God's activity.

But we not only trust in God's past activity, we trust in God's planned activity.

SLIDE – Ps 40:5

5 Many, Lord my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare.

Trust means that we trust that God has an infinitely creative mind and is constantly thinking of new ways to bless us.

Now, this little phrase, the things you planned for us...

SLIDE – Ps 40:5

5 Many, Lord my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us.

The phrase is so relevant for those who are waiting. It sometimes seems that God has no thought about us at all. The truth is God has more plans and better plans for us than we could ask, or think, or imagine. I think of Joseph in the Old

Testament when he was in the pit, thrown there by his brothers. He easily could have been praying: God, get me out of here. When he was in the pit, when he was thrown in prison on trumped up charges, it would have been very tempting for Joseph to have thought: God has forgotten about me. There is nothing in God's mind towards me.

If you listen to contemporary Christian radio or television, you may think that God is entirely preoccupied with fulfilling prophecy in the Middle East. Maybe he is too busy working on some global problem and he has no thoughts about us. And yet, all the while that Joseph was in the pit, and all the while that Joseph was in jail on trumped up charges, there were a multitude of plans regarding what God had in mind for Joseph. And these plans stretched over centuries and they stretched over the nations. God had extraordinary things in mind for Joseph and through Joseph for the world.

And God has extraordinary things in mind for you, even though you struggle to believe that.

Many of you know that when I got out of law school I lost my first job at a law firm and for five months I pounded the pavement looking for another job with a law firm here in town. I sent out dozens and dozens of resumes. I went on numerous interviews. And day after day, week after week, my mailbox was filled with rejection letters. If any of you have ever searched for a job and received multiple rejection letters, you know the pounding your ego takes in those situations. And during that five-month waiting period, I asked all of the questions you ask: Lord, where are you? Why aren't you answering my prayers? Don't you care? We are running out of money. Are you going to provide for my family? Are your promises true?

I couldn't see then the plans that God had in mind for me, for this church, plans that would only unfold over the course of decades, not days or months. Trust in the Lord's plan for your life and obey the Lord in times of waiting.

Here is what it says in vv. 6-10,

SLIDE – Ps 40:6-10

6 Sacrifice and offering you did not desire— but my ears you have opened— burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require. 7 Then I said, “Here I am, I have come— it is written about me in the scroll. 8 I desire to do your will, my God; your law is within my heart.” 9 I proclaim your saving acts in the great assembly; I do not seal my lips, Lord, as you know. 10 I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness and your saving help. I do not conceal your love and your faithfulness from the great assembly.

God is not looking for religion from us while we are waiting. He is not asking us to go on a pilgrimage or prove our faithfulness to him by some great sacrifice. He wants us to obey him. And along with turning aside to the proud, and falling into some soul-numbing addiction, a great temptation while we are waiting is simply the refusal to submit to God's will in obedience. We take control back. We say: If you aren't going to do anything, God, to make this happen, then I've got to make it happen. And I'm going to do it my way. So if you won't find me a Christian husband, or a Christian wife that I've been asking you for, then I will just date a non-Christian. And if you aren't going to heal my marriage right now, then I've got to get a divorce, even if I have no biblical grounds. And if you aren't going to get me a job based on me telling the truth, then I will cut corners and I'll puff my resume and puff my accomplishments and pretend that I'm more than I am and I've done more than I've done. The Lord says: While you wait, obey me! Don't take control back.

You know, the psalms always operate on two levels. One is the immediate level of the psalmist's situation. But a second level is the kingdom level. And David is prophesying about his greater son, Jesus Christ, who during the time of his waiting for God's deliverance, and God's vindication had this said about him in Hebrews 10:5-7,

SLIDE – Heb 10:5-7

5 Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; 6 with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. 7 Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, my God.' "

What does God want of you while you are waiting? He wants you to trust him, to trust his plans for you, and he wants you to obey him, to not try to pay him off with religion.

And friends, you know that waiting is not a one-time experience in the Christian life. It is not like you can say: Thank God that I dealt with that waiting business five years ago, or ten years ago, or twenty-five years ago. In vv. 11-17 in Psalm 40, David speaks to the Lord and essentially he says: "I wait again." Vv. 1-10, I waited and he heard my cry; vv. 11-17, I wait again.

Look at v. 11,

SLIDE – Ps 40:11

11 Do not withhold your mercy from me, Lord; may your love and faithfulness always protect me.

And then look at v. 17,

SLIDE – Ps 40:17

17 But as for me, I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me. You are my help and my deliverer; you are my God, do not delay.

Friends, this is the posture of us as followers of Christ. Until the Lord returns and gives us our resurrection bodies and brings about the New Creation for the entire universe, until that time we are kept waiting. Waiting in anticipation, waiting in hope, waiting in obedience, waiting in trust. And it is during times of waiting that we meet God. Let's pray.

Meeting God While We Wait

Rich Nathan

February 24-25, 2007

Meeting God in the Psalms

Psalm 40

I. I Waited and He Heard My Cry (Ps. 40.1-11)

A. Waiting in an Instant Society

B. Waiting and God's Methods (Ps. 40.1)

C. Waiting When We are in the Pit (Ps. 40.2)

1. Waiting for Answers

2. Waiting for Growth

D. Waiting and Our Response (Ps. 40.4-10)

1. Trust (Ps. 40.4, 5)

a. In the Wrong Things

b. In God's Plans

2. Obedience (Ps. 40.6-10)

II. I Wait Again! (Ps. 40.11-17)