

Trusting God in Times of Waiting

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Preacher: Matt Landeck

[0:00] Well, good morning, everybody. I'm Matt Landek. I'm blessed to be one of the five elders here. And as such, I'm blessed to be able to preach and bring God's Word a few times a year.

And it is a great joy. It is pure joy to be able to do this. We're looking at Psalm 62 today. Now, two weeks ago, my family and I attended the annual 4th of July parade in Groton.

This year, we were even a little bit early, being sure not to miss the start. Sunscreen, matching outfits, gallon-sized bags for candy, check, check, check.

And then we waited for the parade to start, and we waited and we waited. And as the 10 o'clock start time came and went, parade attenders all started to wonder.

A few of you were there. What's going on? As 5, 10, 15 minutes went by, people started to get a little bit of concern. You could feel something was brewing.

[1:07] When will it start? Why are we waiting? Where are the fire trucks? When will I be able to enjoy one of those delicious flavored Tootsie Rolls? You know those little, yeah.

A sense of anxiety and restlessness was brewing. It turns out that the parade hadn't started because there was a tree down on the parade path. Eventually, the tree was cleared and the parade started at about 10.30 and life was good.

And yes, I did enjoy a flavored Tootsie Roll. Now, this silly story about waiting is meant to illustrate the simple point that waiting is not fun.

As if we didn't know that. And often can invoke a plethora of feelings and emotions. And that was just 30 minutes of waiting. But prolonged season of waiting for weeks, months, or years, especially waiting for something that's highly valuable or life-changing, those times are anything but silly and light-hearted.

They can wear you down and leave you with questions, doubting God's presence in your life and His goodness. Prolonged seasons of waiting is what we're going to be focusing on today.

[2:20] The Bible has a lot to say about waiting. The book of Psalm uses the word waiting more than any other book in the Bible. Our psalm today shows us that waiting can accomplish a transforming heart work when we trust God through it.

And that waiting can be used of God for our good. Seasons of waiting, despite how we often feel, are not simply a pointless waste of time.

Psalm 62 helps us to see this and gives us the tools, and I might even say the motivation to wait well. The title of today's sermon is Trusting God in Times of Waiting.

I pray that our time together today may reinvigorate you in your time of waiting or begin your process of learning to wait on God. This is a lifelong lesson that we cannot cover fully this morning, and I will not try to do that.

But I hope this time serves as a springboard for you I know that my current season of waiting has been that for me. So today's goal is that you might trust God more in times of waiting and learn to wait well.

[3:35] Let's pray. Lord, as we come this morning and gather to hear your word, we ask that you would do a transforming work in our hearts, that we might push aside distractions or even the things that we're thinking about waiting in our life right now, that we would push those aside and your spirit would speak to us this morning.

Would this be for your glory and for our good. Amen. This psalm is written by David to the choir master or worship leader, to Dutham. And this is a song meant for public worship.

It's one of David's 74 psalms and further categorized as a psalm of trust. I found this visual a couple of weeks ago, and I've never seen something like this, and I thought it was very helpful.

So here are the different categories or genres of psalms. We have praise, lament, royal psalms, wisdom, thanksgiving hymns, and then trust. Here we are, psalms of trust.

There are six psalms of trust, and there is Psalm 62. It has a chiasmic structure, which we've heard before here at Shoreline.

[4:47] And the structure, according to theologians, is A, B, C, C, B, A. So you can follow this structure through the psalm, A, B, C, C.

These emphasize the greatest emphasis in a chiasmic structure. And then B and A again. Hopefully you can see that red font. So let's read Psalms 62, 1 and 2.

For God alone my soul waits in silence. From him comes my salvation. He alone is my rock and my salvation. My fortress I shall not be greatly shaken.

Here's our first point today. Trusting God in times of waiting means having a trusting disposition in difficult waiting.

Psalm 62 opens abruptly, and we behold, David, the main character in this psalm. What's going on in this scene? What do we see? We see David is waiting for someone.

[5:53] Verse 1 says, For God alone. His heart is set on waiting only and fully for God. There is no deviation from his focus. He has declared it.

He means it. This is intentional waiting. Next, he is waiting in silence. Silence during waiting is a quiet, confident rest. David does not appear disturbed, does he?

But he appears relaxed and deeply calmed in his soul. The very core of his being. And all of David is sure and steady in God.

One old hymn says, Christ my sure and steady anchor. In contrast to his crying day and night that resulted in no rest or silence that we could read in Psalm 22.

Same guy, different psalm. Or in contrast to how we saw Asaph last week, as Jim led us through Psalm 77, the first half of that psalm. David's soul is at ease and portrays an inner peace.

[6:56] Next, David is waiting actively. He knows that God is his place of safety and firm foundation. He knows, sorry, he then moves that truth from his mind to his lips.

Say, from his mind. From his mind. To his lips. He knows that God is. He knows that God is. He knows that God is. He knows that God is. And specifically, how God acts towards those he loves. He says, from him comes my salvation. He alone, my rock, salvation, and fortress. He's actively waiting. Finally, David is waiting confidently.

He says, I shall not be greatly shaken. He does not perceive a lack of safety and security. He says, I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that though I may be jostled, though I may slip, God will ultimately save me.

We see the same sentiment in Psalm 37, 24. Though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong. For the Lord upholds his hand.

[8:12] David has full assurance that though he would be shaken, God would not allow him to be overthrown. And as we move forward today, I just want us to keep this in mind, that we may really struggle in our waiting.

We may really struggle at times. I have, even recently. And waiting might not always look like Psalm 62 from start to finish.

It may look more like David in Psalm 22, crying for help and feeling God is far off. Feeling like you're at your wits end. Or like Asaph in the first half of Psalm 77 last week.

But Psalm 62 is where we want to end up in our waiting. It will be a struggle. There are ups and downs. But this Psalm gives us a reference of what our heart's disposition can look like.

So verses 1 and 2 show us clearly that having a trusting disposition and difficult waiting is possible. All waiting doesn't have to be all bad all the time.

[9:20] Notice in Psalm 62 that there's no eye rolling, no frustrated sighs, no overwhelmed feelings or anger present.

And the next two verses give us this Psalm's background and the reason for David's waiting.

David's dilemma. How long will all of you attack a man to batter him?

Like a leaning wall, a tottering fence. They only plan to thrust him down from his high position. They take pleasure in falsehood. They bless with their mouths, but in relief they curse.

There's some debate as to the context of Psalm 62, but the strongest case can be made for this Psalm being written around the time of the rebellious pursuit of the throne of David's by his son Absalom.

And regardless, though, of the exact scenario, and perhaps we aren't meant to know with 100% certainty, David is in a prolonged season of difficult waiting.

[10 : 21] How long indicates that he has been suffering and waiting not for a short amount of time. His enemies attack him with a fierceness. In their eyes, he's a leaning wall or tottering fence on the verge of collapse.

One shove away from destruction. And because they view him this way, they are relentless in pursuit of his once and for all demise. The ambition of his enemies is that they might usurp his position of kingly power and authority.

They are sinister people. Defined by their deceptive and two-faced speech and taking pleasure in what is false and destructive. Descriptions such as these are seen often in Scripture when referencing the ways of the wicked.

Psalms 28:3 says, Do not drag me off with the wicked, with the workers of evil, who speak peace with their neighbors while evil is in their hearts. In the first four verses of this psalm, we see David in the midst of a difficult time of waiting.

In which his enemies seek to destroy him. He's undergoing intense attacks. Like, likely physically as well as spiritually and emotionally.

[11 : 42] Yet he does not suffer defeat or dismay. But exhibits a truly astounding trusting posture and an upward gaze as he waits.

No doubt he wanted his waiting to end. But that is not the dominant tone of these verses. When we look at David, we might think that all things considered, he's in a good place.

He's in a healthy spot. We might say that he's suffering and waiting well. How did he do this? The next four verses go through how David kept his trusting disposition.

Our second point. Trusting God in times of waiting means declaring truth and taking action. Trust basis.

Verse 5. For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence. For my hope is from him. He only is my rock and salvation, my fortress. I shall not be shaken.

[12 : 49] On God rests my salvation and my glory. My mighty rock, my refuge is God. These verses should sound familiar. Verses 5-7 reiterate and add on to verses 1 and 2.

But in addition to slightly different words, we also must know how David is speaking here. Look closely. One commentator says this.

David described himself as waiting on God in verse 1 and 2. But in 5-7, he must command himself. To do so. Reminding himself of all the things that made him confident and secure.

As seen in verses 1 and 2. For God alone, O my soul, he says. He's speaking to his soul. Do you see that? And in doing this, he passed his knowledge of God from head to heart.

Act of waiting and declaration of what's true was needed to continue to keep himself out of a spiritual deficit. And so he reiterates the truth he already claimed in verses 1 and 2 here again.

[14 : 01] Mark Vrogop, in his book, Waiting Isn't a Waste, says this. Waiting on God is living on what I know to be true about God when I don't know what's true about my life.

Waiting on God is living on what I know to be true about God when I don't know what's true about life. Living on what I know to be true about God.

It's a steady diet. A consistent intake. Living on it. When you eat breakfast and no other food during the day, you might feel hungry.

All the kids answered that one. That was funny. Adults. I think you feel the same way. You might feel hungry. But it's no wonder. The remedy is clear in this situation.

In the David situation, he knew that he needed a steady intake of truth. He knew the remedy. And he knew how to prevent the deficit. I found this quote helpful.

[15 : 13] Spiritual equilibrium is not something we achieve and then never have to reestablish. We often find a place of balance and rest in the Lord, only to be thrown into turmoil by a new development.

Spiritual equilibrium. Let's look deeper at the truths that David talks about in verses 1 and 2 here and again in 5 and 7. Number one, and the most overarching, all-encompassing truth from which the remainders come.

God is his salvation. Say, God is his salvation. God is his salvation. Nice job. Yeah, a dictionary definition of salvation, according to Merriam-Webster, is that thing that saves you from distress, anger, or ruin.

It's the ultimate solution that rescues you when you feel stuck or overwhelmed. Well, Lionel Messi brought salvation to the Argentine soccer team by scoring a tying goal after being down 2-0, as they say in football, in a knockout round against Egypt in the World Cup just a week ago.

It was a brilliant game. The TV commentator actually says, Lionel Messi, the savior for Argentina. For World War II, wounded soldiers, penicillin was the salvation that allied medical personnel needed, as this miracle drug saved lives of millions of soldiers who would have otherwise died from minor injuries.

[16:56] A soccer goal, an antibiotic. For David, his salvation was much more than these, or in his case, even more than the eventual demise of his attackers.

For him, he knew that God was his salvation. God is his salvation. Not just what God might bring me as a verb.

God gives me salvation. But as a noun, God was his salvation. I thought about this idea for like the last two weeks straight, and it took me a long time for the Lord to nail it into my head.

And I'm sure I only stand a bit of it, but I want you to think about that today and the next few days.

The Bible says often, the Lord is my salvation.

He knew that God was his salvation. God was his help, his deliverance. God himself was his relief.

This is the salvation he was waiting for.

[18:06] David was not consumed by waiting for a thing or a moment that would lead to feeling unstuck. He was content to know that the details would come from God. The when, the how, the why that we think about in our waiting.

God knows best. God's purposes are greater than ours. He knows what we need far more than we do. There is no greater salvation than God.

Do you believe that? Second truth, David declared, God is his rock and fortress. God would be his shelter and his hiding place.

His, excuse me. A high tower or a stronghold, a place that is secure, that guarantees protection.

This can be both physical and spiritual protection. Third, his glory rested on God. I'm still looking through verses 5 through 7.

[19:09] This can be seen twofold. First, he knew that in order for his exaltation to the throne and ongoing rule over Israel, as well as his favorable reputation among men to continue, God would have to act.

And second, he knew that his glory or his boast was only on God. His glory rested on God. And the fourth thing he says, David's hope is from God.

He was filled with God-given hope for the end of his period of waiting and the path that God was having him walk in the waiting. He was hopeful in his waiting, not I'll be hopeful when my waiting's over.

And so this optimistic hope was from God and no one or nothing else. For God alone, my soul waits. With God as his salvation, hope filled his heart.

And now in verse 8, we see David turns from petitioning himself, right, oh my soul, to petitioning his readers.

[20:17] A call for God's people to trust. Trust in him at all times, oh people. Pour out your heart before him. God is a refuge for us.

And I believe that verse 8 holds the greatest emphasis in the chiastic structure of this psalm. And this is the author's intent.

Biblical author and the heavenly author. In light of the truth declared in verses 5 through 7 that we just went over, David calls his psalms readers to take action.

What action? What action? To trust in him. To trust in him. Believe he is who he says he is and will do what he says he'll do.

Trust him at all times. In abundance and in periods of waiting. So trust in him. How? By an action.

[21:17] Show your trust. Pour out your heart. Charles Spurgeon says this. Lean over ye saints on him.

On whom the world leans. Ye people pour out your heart before him. Ye to whom his love is revealed.

Reveal yourselves to him. Turn the vessel of your soul upside down in his secret presence and let your inmost thoughts, desires, sorrows, and sins be poured out like water.

Hide nothing from him. For he, for you can hide nothing. To the Lord, unburden your soul. Let him be your only father.

And why? Why this call to action? The basis for the action. God is a refuge. Friends, he is a safe place.

[22 : 25] He is the safe place. He longs to protect, to nurture, and care for us. May we trust in him. May we trust.

And would our trust in him turn into a prayer of petition to our refuge? So next, David again petitions his readers.

Now in verses 9 and 10. He petitions them to be aware of warning. The dangerous trap in warning. Being aware of waiting's trap.

Verse 9. Those of low estate are but a breath. Those of high estate are a delusion. In the balances, they go up. They are altogether lighter than air.

Lighter than a breath. Put no trust in extortion. Set no vain hopes in robbery. If riches increase, set not your heart on them. Be aware of waiting's trap.

[23 : 30] The trap is the urge to trust people or things. Instead of God. Verse 9. Beseeches us. Don't trust in men. Whether in men of low degree.

Bullies who can knock off your enemies. Or high degree. Men of influence or power. Because you're putting your hope in thin air. One commentator says.

Men are a delusion. A vapor. Don't trust in people. They're going to fail you. Their ways are wicked and methods worldly. Weighed against God.

Men are nothing. The more we rely on God, the more we'll see how shallow every other confidence is. Also, David goes on to say that.

Verse 10. We should not put our trust in wealth. Even if you gain riches through legitimate means. He adds in verse 10b. Do not set your heart upon them.

[24 : 34] Absorption with riches counts as no less perilous than a life of crime. Most of us, one commentator said, probably aren't tempted to use oppression or robbery to get out of trials.

But we may be tempted to trust money. Or I might add, anything and everything else that will dull the discouragement and frustration of our waiting.

In order to hasten its end. The way to get through times of prolonged waiting is trusting.

Beware of the alluring trap of finding salvation, hope, comfort, and waiting's end. And people and places instead of God. We've been warned. Our psalm today ends with the final declaration of who the God worthy of trust really is.

Trusting in God in times of waiting means trusting the God of power and love. Verse 11. The once-twice language is a common Hebrew poetic device.

[25 : 57] In this case, it indicates that God has iterated and reiterated this point to David on more than one occasion. So as to drive it home.

Power belongs to God. Steadfast love belongs to God. In times of waiting, knowing that God has all power comforts the soul. As you consider your own helpless state, also consider the power of God to be able to rescue you from it.

That God's power is paired with His love means that not only can He do it, but we know He will do it. Because His love for us is so very deep and pure.

The question of when and how is up to Him. That is... And that... The question of when and how is up to Him.

And friends, that is a great blessing. Who greater to hold the ability to both sustain us in waiting and release us from it than the covenant-making, covenant-keeping God.

[27 : 10] Amen? And that power and love joined with God's justice, verse 12 says, will render to each according to their work.

To David's enemies, the justice that they were due. And to David, the blessing that he will receive for trusting in God. God, namely, his salvation.

Both the end of his waiting and the joys and pleasures of God's nearness to him throughout the process. So we exit Psalm 62 with David.

The very way we entered it. Beholding David, a man going through difficult waiting, exhibiting a trusting disposition, he has a peace, a calm, an assurance.

Not based on what is going on in his life, but on who God is. Alright. Let's get to some specific application of this Psalm.

[28:17] Although they vary in intensity, duration, mental, physical, and emotional load, periods of waiting are commonplace for humans. Prolonged seasons of waiting, where the end is unclear, prove especially challenging and feel all too frequent.

I wonder what times of waiting you've been through in your life. Maybe similar to David, you've been under attack from others. You have been waiting for reprieve from wicked people. Maybe you've encountered the two-faced, conniving nature of those who seek to have no greater delight than to take you down.

Whose actions behind your back prove their peaceful speech to be only lies. Who take pleasure in falsehood and seek your destruction. Brother, sister, I am so sorry for this.

No person deserves to be treated like this. Ever. Perhaps you've gone through or are going through waiting like this.

Or perhaps you've been going through different waiting. Let's widen the scope a little bit. Maybe you're waiting tirelessly for the end of a debilitating physical, emotional, or mental ailment.

[29:45] Or an intense season of spiritual battle. Perhaps it's waiting for a pregnancy, a house, a spouse, a different job, stable finances, the restoring of a relationship, the return of a rebellious child or children who listen and obey as they ought.

The list goes on and on and I can't mention all the ways here that you might be waiting and I can't do that, but you know you're waiting.

You know you're waiting. What it is. And you know you don't want it in your life. All who wait ask the same question.

When will it end? Like any of us, David so longed for reprieve from his endless battle. Of course he did. But what do those feelings lead to is my question.

Do you, like David, have a trusting disposition in difficult waiting? If only I could wait like David.

[31:06] I've struggled with waiting. Certainly for small-scale things like traffic lights and kids to sit still during diaper changes, lines at the store.

But especially for bigger things, like for the last few months, I've been going through periods of randomly feeling discouraged, anxious for no reason, having brain fog and just not feeling normal, what I prefer to feel.

It's been a challenging time and it's persisted. I'm always looking around the proverbial corner for when it will end and the means that I can use to make it end.

I don't think I've had to wait like this in my life before. And so the big question this psalm asks us is the one that I asked myself a couple of months ago and has had the greatest impact.

And the question is, do you trust God? It's four words, but it's really heavy. Do you trust God?

[32:23] In times of prolonged waiting are a litmus test for how much we truly trust God. Or should I say a reality check.

You know, the uneventful status quo phases of life when things are good may give us this false picture of our trust in God. And this is something that I've rediscovered when I'm back in a period of waiting where the end and the means are unclear.

When, listen to this, when the rest, peace, hope, and joy, and safety, and calm that we saw of David in this psalm, when those things look more like in my life, restlessness, unsettled feelings, anger, discontentment, discouragement, anxiety, instability, and confusion about what's true in my life, I'm likely not trusting God in my waiting.

When I'm hyperfixated, hyperfixated on what I can adjust or tweak or change in my circumstance, and when that change doesn't end my waiting, so I try something else, and I get frustrated, and I've got to do the thing or the things, I've got to do them, I'm likely not trusting God.

It's not wrong to want your waiting to end, but has relief become your idol? Am I falling into waiting's trap, the pursuit of people or things rather than God?

[33:59] Am I looking for someone or something else to be my salvation? If we change our circumstances and it happens to bring an end to our waiting, but we've really got a trust problem that's still unaddressed, be sure it's going to come up again.

God will give you another opportunity. Be sure of that. And don't always look for the silver lining. It's a common quote in my house.

Don't always look for the silver lining. There may not be one. Sometimes God brings us into times of waiting just to teach us how to wait and how to trust.

On occasion, there may be some who have been forced into a season of waiting that's illegal, immoral, or unsafe.

In these circumstances, you can trust God and also be wise and prudent to remove yourself and diligently seek to end your waiting.

[35 : 15] Please talk to myself, an elder, or someone here you trust that we may help you. We value your safety. We value your well-being. Regardless of the time type of waiting we're going through, when we wait for God alone in our waiting, because we trust Him, we get God's joy, God's peace, His rest, confidence, and hope.

We receive the things that our souls actually long deeply for in our waiting. What I need to change isn't my circumstances.

It's my trust in God. And when we choose to trust God, we'll find that slowly but surely, although our circumstances may not change, our attitude and perspective in waiting begins to change for the good.

And we begin to wait well. I just want to end with these three helpful tips on how to trust God more in times of waiting.

Number one, talk to God and let God talk to you through prayer, through meditating, listening to God.

[36 : 37] Of course, through reading the Word, Scripture. Friends, take waiting one day at a time. This is from the Bible.

This lesson is as old as Israel in the wilderness. Mark Vrograpp, again in his book, *Waiting Isn't a Waste*, says this. It's magnificent.

The daily provision of God providing food for his people in the wilderness in the form of manna created a vital lesson. It appears in the New Testament in the Lord's Prayer.

Give us this day our daily bread. The idea is simple and yet profound. God provides what we need on his timeline.

He gives us daily bread. He provides daily grace. You can't buy manna in bulk. Take it one day at a time.

[37 : 45] Finally, walk with others in your waiting and in theirs. Waiting is hard and nearly impossible when you're alone.

And I think that's by God's design of how he created his church to care for and minister to each other. Prolonged seasons of waiting can bring a spiritual blindness and sometimes we just need a brother or sister to remind us what we already know, what's right in front of our eyes, what we can't see.

Ask questions and allow others to ask you questions. Am I trusting God? Are you waiting with open hands? Walk through waiting with others.

So today's goal was that you might trust God more in times of waiting and learn to wait well.

but that's not the end. I pray that this might be the case for us each day that we all might trust God more and learn to wait well.

[39 : 08] Whereas situations from our own life or even looking at David's story they may inspire us, we may talk to our brothers and sisters and be motivated and look at Psalm 62 and be ready to wait well and trust God.

They teach us how to trust God more but our trust in God can only be rooted in Jesus Christ. I can trust God because of what He has done through Christ.

The power of love and steadfast His power and steadfast love as we saw in verse 12 in His love sent Jesus to die the death we deserve to pay our punishment that our sin incurred.

And Jesus Christ through the power given to Him by the Father was able to redeem the relationship between mankind and God. And so now when we by faith trust in Christ alone as our only source and our only hope of salvation we receive God and we begin the lifelong journey as a Christian of waiting for God's perfect heavenly kingdom.

Life with God forever. Because of Jesus Christ you and I can trust God and wait well because He who loved me enough to save me through Christ also loves me enough to keep me from falling to hear my prayers and supply me with what I need each day.

[40 : 51] Because God is always working for my good number two and uses my waiting not as a waste but to conform me more into the image and character of His beloved Son who He saved me to my salvation Jesus Christ.

He's using my waiting for my good. Number three we can wait trust God and wait well because Christ having faced the same temptation as I have having waited well perfectly submitting to the Father's will and understanding over His own has sent the Holy Spirit to minister to me to empower me and remind me of the beautiful truths from God's Word.

Without those truths we won't wait well. Because of Christ we can wait well. And finally the fourth bullet point because my sins and past failures and giving into the trap of finding salvation and other things in people those things have been nailed to the cross of Calvary.

My sins are forgiven and God will render to me a reward for the work that Christ has done on my behalf not for a reward that I've earned on my own but for what Christ has done today there is new mercy and grace for me to change the way that I wait and trust God because of Christ.

Would God be glorified and Christ exalted in how we trust in our times of waiting? Please pray with me. Heavenly Father we come now and we ask that you would teach us how to wait well and how to trust you.

[43 : 09] Would the truths from your word be rich and vibrant? Would they be our delight? Would Christ be our joy? And would you receive the glory as we trust you in times of waiting?

Amen. Amen. Amen.