

Waiting...Waiting...Waiting...So much of life is spent waiting. We are waiting for Christmas presents, to graduate, for acceptance letters, for our career, for retirement, for grandkids, and in so many lines... And now we find ourselves in *Advent* — a season of waiting. Following the liturgical calendar, we retell God's story of redeeming and recreating us and the world...of bringing heaven to earth and our hearts. Advent starts the retelling of this story. Advent means *to come*.

As we retell the story, we remember the prophets in the Old Testament who were waiting on a king—*the King*. The people of God were in exile, which is to say they were in a land, a home, that was not their own... but they had a promise. The promise of a king —*the King*. The promise was great, but the dilemma was that they had to wait. While they were waiting in a land that was not their own, God still had work for them to do. Speaking through the prophet Jeremiah, God said this: **“And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare”** (Jeremiah 29:7).

Not only do we retell this story, but we find ourselves in the already not yet reality of this King and His Kingdom—Jesus and the Kingdom of God. We, too, are in a land that is not our own. We are a minority group of people who worship Jesus. We, too, are waiting. We are waiting for Jesus to come again and finish God's work of redeeming and recreating us and this broken world where we live, eat, play, suffer, mourn, and have our being. What do we do while we wait?

We invite people to explore and follow Jesus, to be transformed by Jesus, and to participate in the mission of Jesus. In other words, because we are disciples of Jesus, we make disciples of Jesus. In the last few newsletters, I wrote about inviting people to explore and follow Jesus and to be transformed by Jesus. Briefly, I want us to think about one aspect of participating in the mission of Jesus.

God is working in the world. This is a work that He shares with his people. This is a work that he equips His people to do by and through the Holy Spirit. But the world is big, and we are few; what are we to do? Before Jesus ascended to Heaven, he told 120 of his followers to wait in Jerusalem so they “will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

The starting place to join the work was precisely where they were —Jerusalem. Let us see the place where we live and work as the place where we seek the good of the city, neighborhood, family, and church for the glory of God.

Praying for you,
Pastor Zac