

Waiting...

- What do we have to wait for?
- Why is it hard to wait?

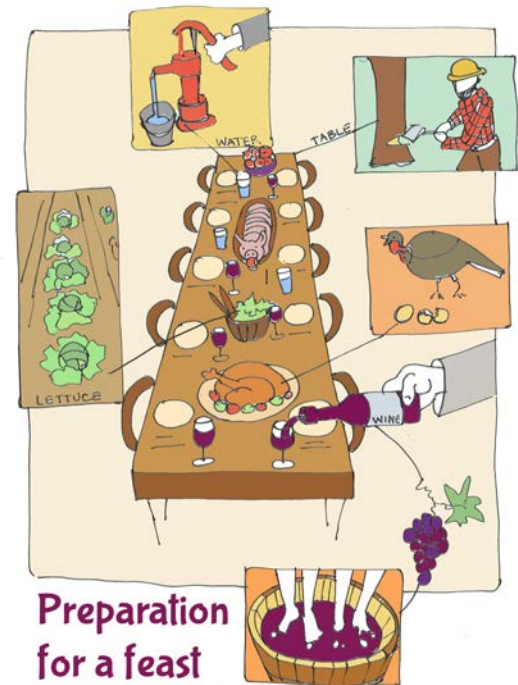
- When do we have to wait for God?
- Why is it hard to wait for God?

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Faith in God's Faithfulness

Luke 2:21-40

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 Spanish page 1298
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 English-Brown* page 1027
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The Setting for this Story

- Luke has told the stories surrounding Jesus' birth:
 - The angel told **Zechariah** he would have a son named **John** who would prepare people for **Jesus**
 - The angel told **Mary** should would give birth to the Son of God and name Him **Jesus**
 - **John** was born, and **Zechariah** prophesied about **Jesus**
 - **Jesus** was born, and the angels and shepherds celebrated!

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Luke 2:21-40

- 21:** 8 days: Circumcision and naming of Jesus
- 22-24: • They obeyed the command through Abraham
- 25-33: • 2100 years before
- 34-35: • They obeyed the words of the angel
- 36-38: • 9 months before
- 39-40:

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Luke 2:21-40

21: 8 days: Circumcision and naming of Jesus

22-24: 40 days: Purification of Mary and consecration of Jesus

25-33: • Obedience to the Law of Moses brought them

34-35: to the temple that very day (1400 years before)

36-38: • They set Jesus apart to God

39-40: for God's purposes and plans

- Firstborn had highest honor, so to dedicate the firstborn to the Lord was to give God your best
- Even in their poverty

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Luke 2:21-40

21: 8 days: Circumcision and naming of Jesus

22-24: 40 days: Purification of Mary and consecration of Jesus

25-33: Simeon prophesied about Jesus, guided by the Spirit

34-35: • "Waiting" = expectant hope for the coming Savior

36-38: • Simeon followed the Law of Moses: 1400 years

39-40: • Put His hope in the words of the prophets: centuries

• Hoped in the promise of the Spirit: decades(?)

• Followed the prompting of the Spirit: that day

- First statement of the Savior being for all nations
- Joseph and Mary marveled at his words
 - God was working through others as well
 - For a plan that was far bigger than they knew

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Luke 2:21-40

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22-24: 40 days: Purification of Mary and consecration of Jesus

25-33: Simeon prophesied about Jesus, guided by the Spirit

34-35: Simeon warned about the challenges ahead

36-38: • “Blessing” also included prophecy: a hard future

39-40: • Many will oppose Jesus and be lost

- Response to Jesus reveals heart’s attitude toward God
- Many oppose God
- Mary will also suffer
- Perhaps in watching her Son Jesus die

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25-33: Simeon prophesied about Jesus, guided by the Spirit

34-35: Simeon warned about the challenges ahead

36-38: Anna prophesied about Jesus

39-40: • Emphasis: very long faithfulness in hope

- She was trusting in God’s plan
- There was a community of people “waiting”
- Anna was a leader of this community

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34-35: Simeon warned about the challenges ahead

36-38: Anna prophesied about Jesus

39-40: Jesus grew over time

- The journey of quiet obedience continued
- Waiting for the days of His ministry

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The Big Idea

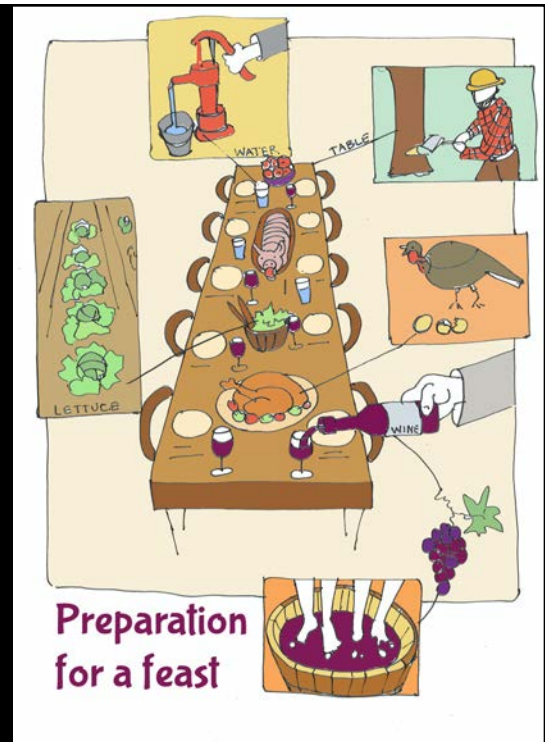
God is working out His plan
to bring Salvation and wholeness
to people from every tribe and nation
across generations
across each lifetime
and within each day

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Preparation for a Feast

- Which parts take a long time to prepare? Or a short time?
- Which parts have a long road to be ready?

The master host of the feast plans each part so it is all ready when the feast begins.



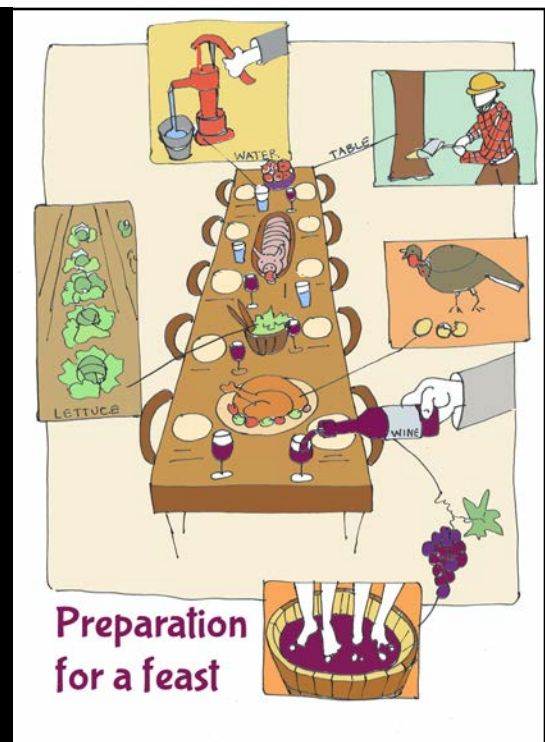
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“God has made everything **beautiful in its time**. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet **no one can fathom** what God has done from beginning to end.”

Ecclesiastes 3:11

- **Joseph & Mary** obeyed the ancient commands & the angel’s words
- **Simeon and Anna** trusted the ancient promises
- **Simeon trusted** an old promise and a present prompt

fathom = fully understand



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Applications

- “Wait” for the unfolding and completion of God’s plan
 - “Waiting” involves...
 - Head** • Listening and watching
 - Heart** • Trusting rather than worrying
 - Trust = anticipatory thanks and joy
 - Worry = anticipatory regret
 - Hands** • Obeying even when we can’t see how it all fits
 - When and how does God reveal His plan?
 - From ancient times: the Bible
 - Across generations and decades
 - Daily & hourly

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<i>When God speaks</i>	<i>Listening Head</i>	<i>Trusting Heart</i>	<i>Obeying Hands</i>
From ancient times			
Generations and decades			
Continuous			

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<i>When God speaks</i>	<i>Listening Head</i>	<i>Trusting Heart</i>	<i>Obeying Hands</i>
From ancient times	"Know" the Bible		
Generations and decades			
Continuous			

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<i>When God speaks</i>	<i>Listening Head</i>	<i>Trusting Heart</i>	<i>Obeying Hands</i>
From ancient times	"Know" the Bible		
Generations and decades	Learn from those who are older Remember what God has taught		
Continuous			

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<i>When God speaks</i>	<i>Listening Head</i>	<i>Trusting Heart</i>	<i>Obeying Hands</i>
From ancient times	"Know" the Bible		
Generations and decades	Learn from those who are older Remember what God has taught		
Continuous	Listen to God through people, circumstances, and directly		

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<i>When God speaks</i>	<i>Listening Head</i>	<i>Trusting Heart</i>	<i>Obeying Hands</i>
From ancient times	"Know" the Bible	"I will trust your Word to us"	
Generations and decades	Learn from those who are older Remember what God has taught		
Continuous	Listen to God through people, circumstances, and directly		

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From ancient times	"Know" the Bible	"I will trust your Word to us"	
Generations and decades	Learn from those who are older Remember what God has taught	"I will not despair, for you are still working"	
Continuous	Listen to God through people, circumstances, and directly		

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Continuous	Listen to God through people, circumstances, and directly	"I will not fear, for you are with me still" Obey with hope	

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<i>When God speaks</i>	<i>Listening Head</i>	<i>Trusting Heart</i>	<i>Obeying Hands</i>
From ancient times	"Know" the Bible	"I will trust your Word to us"	Follow the Bible & live by its values
Generations and decades	Learn from those who are older Remember what God has taught	"I will not despair, for you are still working"	
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From ancient times	"Know" the Bible	"I will trust your Word to us"	Follow the Bible & live by its values
Generations and decades	Learn from those who are older Remember what God has taught	"I will not despair, for you are still working"	Persevere as others have before us. Follow their model of trust and obedience
Continuous	Listen to God through people, circumstances, and directly	"I will not fear, for you are with me still" Obey with hope	

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<i>When God speaks</i>	<i>Listening Head</i>	<i>Trusting Heart</i>	<i>Obeying Hands</i>
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Generations and decades	Learn from those who are older Remember what God has taught	"I will not despair, for you are still working"	Persevere as others have before us. Follow their model of trust and obedience
Continuous	Listen to God through people, circumstances, and directly	"I will not fear, for you are with me still" Obey with hope	Follow the prompting that now is the time to pray, love, be bold, be quiet, go, stay, ...

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Applications

- "Wait" for the unfolding and completion of God's plan
 - With head, heart, and hands
 - As God speaks through the Bible, through the generations, and each day and moment
- Even in mystery
 - When the path...
 - is not clear
 - is not straight
 - involves conflict
 - involves suffering

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The Big Idea

God is working out His plan
to bring Salvation and wholeness
to people from every tribe and nation
across generations
across each lifetime
and within each day

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For those who don't trust God and His plans,
instead of a feast, life ends in a junk yard of destruction

- Only in Christ, are all things beautiful in His time
- Outside of Christ, everything leads to brokenness and despair

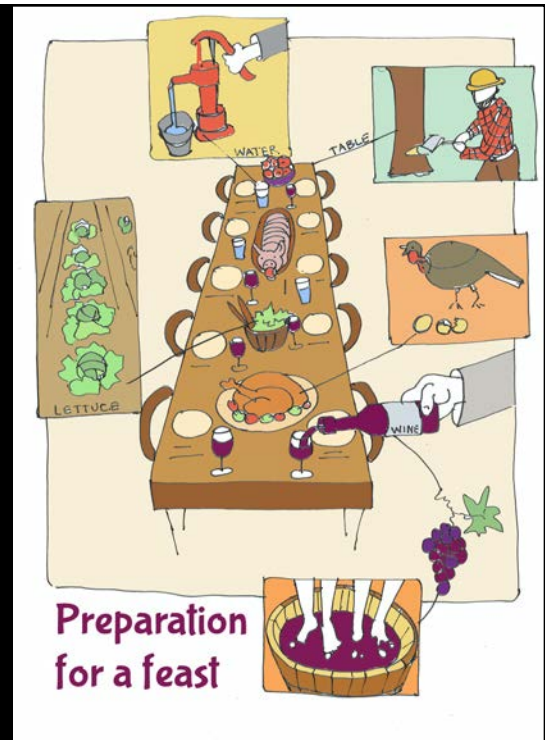


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Only God is faithful,
and He always is

There are snacks along the way
(some have more than others...)

**But our true hope
is in the one feast
that God is preparing
through the lives of all people
who are trusting Him**

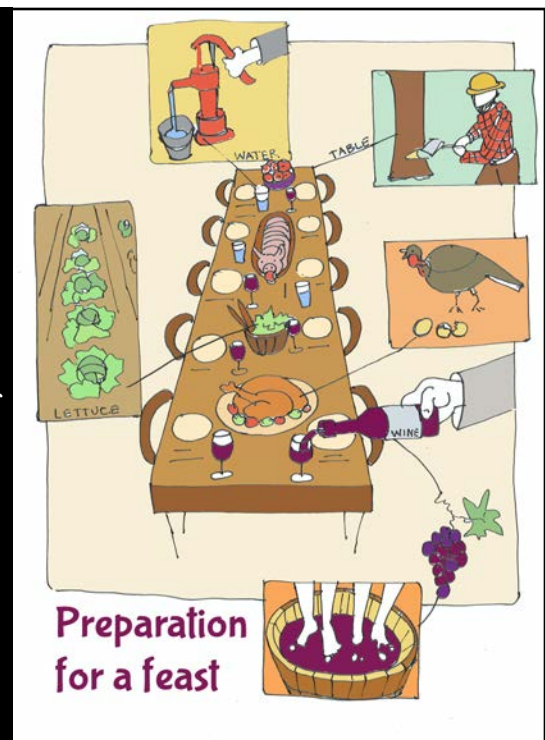


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**From Christ the whole body,
joined and held together by
every supporting ligament,
grows and builds itself up in
love, as each part does its
work.**

Ephesians 4:16

Your “waiting” and my “waiting”
are building up the whole body
for the one feast
we will enjoy together forever!



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It can be hard to see...

“But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. **The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.**” *2 Peter 3:8-9*

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The Big Idea

God is working out His plan
to bring Salvation and wholeness
to people from every tribe and nation
across generations
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and within each day

**Is there someone in your life who is finding it hard to “wait” on the LORD?
Are you finding it hard to “wait” on the LORD?**

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We continually ask God to **fill you with the knowledge of his will** through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, **being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience**, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

Colossians 1:9-12