

Wait and Trust

- **The Reality of Waiting**
 - We all spend much of life waiting—sometimes for small things, but often for bigger milestones.
 - In youth, waiting may involve career, relationships, or family; in later years, it shifts to deeper longings.
- **Simeon and Anna: Faithful in Waiting**
 - Both elderly, devout, and shaped by a deep awareness of God's presence.
 - Their waiting was forward-looking, anticipating God's fulfillment rather than dwelling on the past.
 - Their faithfulness positioned them to recognize Jesus as the Messiah.
- **A World in Need of Consolation and Redemption**
 - Israel, under Roman rule, longed for political and spiritual renewal.
 - Today, we see suffering, conflict, and personal hardships that make us ask: Where is God?
- **God's Answer: A Vulnerable Messiah**
 - Simeon and Anna saw that God's redemption came not through power, but through a child.
 - Jesus himself experienced waiting—both as an infant and later in his ministry.
 - His final days in Jerusalem revealed deep trust in God's purpose, despite suffering.
- **Seasons of Action and Seasons of Waiting**
 - Some seasons allow us to act; others require patient trust in God.
 - In waiting, we acknowledge our vulnerability and pray, "Your Kingdom come."
- **The Call to Faithful Trust**
 - Like Simeon and Anna, we are called to watch for God's work in our lives.
 - Even though we may not change the world alone, we can make ourselves available for God's transforming power.

Questions:

1. **What are you waiting for?** – Simeon and Anna spent their lives waiting for God's promise to be fulfilled. How does their example challenge or encourage us in the things we are waiting for in life?
2. **How does waiting shape our faith?** – The sermon suggests that waiting deepens our trust in God. Have you experienced times when waiting strengthened your faith? How does patient prayer help us see God's presence?
3. **Where is God in suffering?** – Simeon and Anna lived in difficult times, yet they remained faithful. How does their faith speak to our own struggles and the suffering we see in the world today?
4. **What does it mean to recognize Jesus?** – Simeon and Anna saw Jesus for who he truly was, even as a baby. What does this teach us about recognizing God's presence in unexpected ways?
5. **How do we balance action and waiting?** – Jesus' life moved from action to waiting, especially in his final days. How do we discern when to act and when to wait in faith?
6. **What does 'Your Kingdom come' mean for us today?** – The sermon calls us to pray and trust in God's kingdom. What does this look like in our daily lives? How can we be part of God's work of transformation?