

Small Group Discussion Guide

“Waiting on Will” (pt. 1) – 7/20/2014

Scripture: John 7:1-13

Bottom Line: Jesus waited to complete God's will.

INTRODUCTION: We all hate to wait for a long time. Some of us have more patience than others, but everyone has limits. It seems as though God will often test those limits in one way or the other for his glory and your good. Knowing God's will is extremely important for the Christian life. Waiting on God's will to take shape in our lives is often just as important to God as the completion and enjoyment of his will.

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

Read John 7:1-13

Why did Jesus' brothers want him to show off publicly?

- They misunderstood who Jesus was. They knew him as their brother and probably knew that he was the Messiah, but they did not know or trust in the work that he was doing. Gaining public attention the way they had intended would only cause people to want a political revolutionary, not a Savior reuniting people to a holy God.

What did Jesus mean when he said that “his time had not yet come”?

- Jesus is the Messiah. Israel had waited for him to come for such a long time. Yet even when he came, he did not publicly reveal himself as such until the right time. Perhaps this is due to the people's tendency to misunderstand his true identity and role (Jn. 1:11, 2:4, 5:18, 6:15, 7:3, etc.)

UNDERSTANDING HOW THE GOSPEL APPLIES TO MY LIFE:

What was God's will for Jesus?

- To display God's mercy by seeking and saving the lost. To that end, Jesus lived his life in such a way as to carry out this mission. Therefore, he waited for the right time to carry out God's will.

How does Jesus waiting on God's will help you?

What is God's will for you as a Christian?

- Now that Jesus has publicly revealed himself as the Messiah by his death and resurrection and sent his disciples on mission, God's will for your life is to embody that mission in your entire life (work, family, fun, money, etc.). Of course, the particulars of God's will for your life will vary from person to person.

Have you ever struggled with the "when" of God's will? In other words, have you ever longed for the particulars of God's will in your life to finally happen?

- The truth is we will have to wait on God's will, Jesus did. However, even in the waiting, God works to produce endurance which develops character which produces hope. This hope does not let us down because we can see God's work in our lives and how he is changing us for the better.

How did Jesus wait well?

- He strategically arranged his life.
- He chose his influences carefully.
- He was actively serving in his waiting.

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

How can you wait well concerning God's will?

- Strategically arrange your life today to be available to God tomorrow.
- Carefully choose your influences.
- Be actively serving in your waiting.
- Know the end goal
- Seek God for God. Don't seek God just for God's will.

We never have to wait on God's forgiveness and grace. That was earned by Jesus for us and it is always available through faith.