

*"I waited patiently for the Lord; He turned to me and heard my cry.
He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire;
He set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.
He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in Him." – Ps. 40:1-3*

Pop quiz: If yesterday was Good Friday, and tomorrow is Easter Sunday, what is today called?

The list of names for this day is a long one...

Holy Saturday	Sabbatum Sanctum	Glorious Saturday
Great Sabbath	Black Saturday	Joyous Saturday
Hallelujah Saturday	Easter Eve	The Saturday of Light

Apparently we really love to name special days!

That Saturday, Sabbath day, after Jesus was crucified was the first day of the new world for His followers and family. They didn't know about Easter or the Resurrection. They only knew that their Lord, their son, their friend was dead, and with Him all of their dreams. And so they waited. Universally, this Saturday is a day of waiting.

Of all the things we have to do as a species, this is perhaps the one we hate and fail at the most. We will not wait for anything, from packages in the mail to food at a restaurant to text replies to diagnoses. We hate to wait for just about anything. But there are some things in life we simply have to wait for. Pregnancies and birthday parties, reboots and sequels, though we hate waiting sometimes there is no choice.

That's what it was for Jesus' disciples that Holy Saturday. Though they didn't know what they were waiting for, arrest or flight from the city, still they waited. They knew their scriptures well, so they understood the theology of waiting, how it was one of the greatest tools for building faith and trust in God. They knew this verse from Ps. 40, promising that God sees us while we wait and has something wonderful in store for those who endure. And they knew their own history, of waiting to be free from slavery in Egypt, waiting to enter the Promised Land, and waiting to be free from Exile... twice.

As we wait for the coronavirus to pass, to be free from our self-quarantines, to get back to normal, it would be wise for us to re-read this passage. It is a promise for us now and a song for us to sing in the future: "I waited patiently for the Lord; He turned to me and hear my cry." Today as we await a completely unique Easter, as we await fellowship yet again, as we await all that God has in store for us, we need to take heart in the scriptures that say, "Those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength." I believe it is the only way we will find the patience for our current season.

Encourage each other with these words. Live them out in your life, your conversations, and your social media posts. Be the one who lives and encourages patience during this time. It is not only a fruit of the Spirit, it is a tool for sharing the Good News of Easter. We wait patiently because we trust and know that God has something amazing planned for our future.

What is the hardest thing you have to wait for?

How might you encourage someone else to be patient this week?