

**The Coming King: I Want It NOW**  
**Sermon 12-2-18**  
**Pastor Curtis Dehmey**

**Genesis 3:8-15**

<sup>8</sup>They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

<sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?”<sup>10</sup>He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.”

<sup>11</sup>He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”<sup>12</sup>The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.”<sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.”

<sup>14</sup>The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.<sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

**Message:**

What’s Advent? We practice this thing every year. We have the advent wreath. We light the candles. Most of us know that it has something to do with Jesus. But what is it exactly? How did it start? Interestingly, Advent, originally, was not about the birth of Christ. It was about the Parousia, Christ’s **SECOND** coming. Advent was about preparing for the second coming of Christ in the early church. According to Christianity.com, “Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, the celebration of God’s incarnation represented by the visit of the Magi to baby Jesus, his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist, and his first miracle at Cana. During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40 days in penance, prayer, and fasting to prepare for this celebration; originally, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas.” It wasn’t until the middle ages, where Advent was associated with Christ’s birth and first coming. “The Advent wreath first appeared in Germany in 1839. A Lutheran minister working at a mission for children created a wreath out of the wheel of a cart. He placed twenty small red

candles and four large white candles inside the ring. The red candles were lit on weekdays and the four white candles were lit on Sundays. Eventually, the Advent wreath was created out of evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life in the midst of winter and death. The circle reminds us of God's unending love and the eternal life He makes possible. Advent candles are often nestled in the evergreen wreath. Additional decorations, like holly and berries, are sometimes added. Their red color points ahead to Jesus' sacrifice and death." This tradition of advent and the advent wreath it isn't merely just about keeping a tradition for tradition's sake. This tradition symbolizes something very oppositional to our society and for many of us, our way of life here in America. We might want to light all the candles and rush through the advent season to get to the climax of the Christmas story. We might want to fill this empty manger behind me with the baby king that is to come. "Why wait?" you may be saying. But that's precisely the point. We live in a culture of NOW. Maybe it looks something like this from "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" (Play video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wzr12gBrXA8>). It's preposterous to think about waiting. We want it NOW. We can instantly order our gifts online. We can instantly order pizza. We can instantly communicate with someone half-way across the world. We live in an age of instant. We live in an age of WE WANT IT NOW. Not one that values patience. So why is it so important to value patience in this season especially?

Well...let's dig into our passage a little bit and find out. This Genesis passage is not a typical advent passage. Adam and Eve just ate from the tree of knowledge. A tree that God forbid them to eat from. <sup>8</sup>"They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?'<sup>10</sup>He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.'" What I find interesting about this part is how for the first time Adam and Eve are afraid of God. There is no indication in the text that Adam and Eve ever had this reaction before with God. This is the first sign in our text that eating from the tree has changed them, they hid themselves. God calls for His creation, and Adam innocently divulges that he hid himself not just because of his fear of God, but because of his nakedness. In chapter 2, verse 25, after Eve is created, Genesis tells us, "And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed." In ancient culture, in their paintings and statues, to have someone depicted nakedly, was to represent freedom. At the beginning of creation Adam and Eve were free from shame. But the narrator of Genesis sets us up with this verse in 2:25. By Adam and Eve eating of the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they brought shame upon themselves and imprisoned themselves

with sin. And so clothing themselves or hiding from God, represents the original sin and the sins to come.

And of course, nothing gets past God. “<sup>11</sup>He said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?’ [Busted!]”<sup>12</sup>The man said, ‘The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.’ [Way to go Adam. Blame the woman. It’s gotta be her fault, right?]”<sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, ‘What is this that you have done?’” The woman said, ‘The serpent tricked me, and I ate.’”

Well...of course then Eve blames the serpent. It’s easy to blame the devil. Isn’t that what some of us do sometimes? It wasn’t me, it was devil. It wasn’t me, it was the devil who made me drink. It wasn’t me, it was the devil who made me sleep with her. It wasn’t me, it was the devil who made me eat that chocolate cake. It wasn’t me abusing you, it was the devil who made me do it. Some would say that the original sin of Eve was not at the eating of the fruit or simply disobedience. The original sin of Eve happens in verse 6, “So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be DESIRED to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate...” What was the original sin? She DESIRED what she did not have. She was envious of God and what He knew. Which is ultimately rooted in something else: trust.

Our desire to move things along quickly and expediently in this season is rooted in a lack of trust. Do we trust that the birth of Christ is going to come? Do we trust that God is going to fulfil his promises? Do we trust that God is going to come among us? You know, many of you may loathe or hate change. You may have even disliked the sermon I preached the other week on change and embracing what is new of God. For as much as many of you dislike change, I hate waiting. I’m going to be honest with you. I hate waiting. I am just as much preaching this sermon to myself as I am preaching it to you. Christine can attest to this, I hate it when God puts me in a position of waiting. I want to know the plan of God NOW. I want what I want NOW. Like Adam and Eve, I grow impatient. I want to know what God knows. I’m envious of what God knows. Out of my own anxiety and distrust, I want to wrangle an answer out of God. I will pray like crazy, study the scriptures, read books, seek advice from others. I try to force an answer out of God, I’ll torcher myself in the process until I get tired and finally when I’m tired and in a space to actually listen God tells me the answer I don’t want to hear: wait. It drives me nuts to not know and to wait on the Lord. As one person shared with me recently through their personal experience, waiting on the Lord has less to do with direction and doing, and more to do with what God is doing in you and me. In other words, God challenges us to wait to listen carefully for His voice and to build us up and pushes us to grow in seasons of waiting.

It may drive us nuts at times to wait on the Lord, but I can also attest to when the Lord reveals His plan, great peace washes over me and the work of God amazes me again. Think about those who don't know Jesus. Think about those who don't know the Lord. Like Adam and Eve, they seek their own knowledge. Like Adam and Eve, they seek to see the world through their own eyes. And by doing so, like Adam and Eve, they cause themselves harm. They get wrapped up in consumerism and come away feeling just as empty as they did before. They have all the tools and gadgets in the world and they come away unfulfilled. They seek power and wealth, but destroy all the relationships along the path. The knowledge we seek is not our own man-made knowledge, as intelligent as it might be. Thank goodness God created us with such abilities. But as displayed in our passage, knowledge can be used for good and for evil. Facebook, iPhones, Computers, Cars, Books, the internet, they can all be used for good and for evil. They can all be used to cause impatience in each of us and lead us to believe we are gods unto ourselves. As I've said many times before, God has the grandest perspective and the grandest knowledge. So why rely on our own knowledge alone since it is vain and empty compared to God's? The moment we think that we can live this life on our own, without God, is the moment that we stop trusting God. The moment we move impatiently into something that is not of God, we injure ourselves and cause ourselves harm. In that same moment we lose hope in God.

What I'm asking of you in this season, is to choose the posture of patience and waiting. While most of this sermon has focused on the dangers or warnings against not waiting, like the consequences Adam and Eve experienced, there are also a lot of benefits. Waiting builds us up. Waiting builds an inner strength in each of us. A strength of willpower/God-power. Waiting on the Lord builds trust with the Lord. By waiting, we gain a stronger relationship with God. Waiting also builds anticipation. I remember, after being engaged with Christine, waiting for the day to marry her. The anticipation or the waiting at times was torcher, but it also created a climactic, joyous and exciting experience. The build-up actually created a more wonderful experience. If we would have just gone down to the courthouse and got a judge to marry us, it wouldn't have been the same experience. So waiting not only builds hope in our hearts, but builds triumphant and climactic joy. But the bottom line question is, do you trust the Lord? Is your hope in the Lord? To illustrate the value of waiting even more, listen to this story from [elitedaily.com](http://elitedaily.com) by Lauren Martin, "A NYC Taxi driver wrote: I arrived at the address and honked the horn. After waiting a few minutes I honked again. Since this was going to be my last ride of my shift I thought about just driving away, but instead I put the car in park and walked up to the door and knocked. 'Just a minute', answered a frail, elderly voice. I could hear something being dragged

across the floor. After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman in her 90's stood before me. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it, like somebody out of a 1940's movie. By her side was a small nylon suitcase. The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets. There were no clocks on the walls, no knickknacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a cardboard box filled with photos and glassware. 'Would you carry my bag out to the car?' she said. I took the suitcase to the cab, then returned to assist the woman. She took my arm and we walked slowly toward the curb. She kept thanking me for my kindness. 'It's nothing', I told her... 'I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother to be treated.' 'Oh, you're such a good boy,' she said. When we got in the cab, she gave me an address and then asked, 'Could you drive through downtown?' 'It's not the shortest way,' I answered quickly. 'Oh, I don't mind,' she said. 'I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice.' I looked in the rear-view mirror. Her eyes were glistening. 'I don't have any family left,' she continued in a soft voice. 'The doctor says I don't have very long.' I quietly reached over and shut off the meter. 'What route would you like me to take?' I asked. For the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator. We drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds. She had me pull up in front of a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl. Sometimes she'd ask me to slow in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing. As the first hint of sun was creasing the horizon, she suddenly said, 'I'm tired. Let's go now'. We drove in silence to the address she had given me. It was a low building, like a small convalescent home, with a driveway that passed under a portico. Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They were solicitous and intent, watching her every move. They must have been expecting her. I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. The woman was already seated in a wheelchair. 'How much do I owe you?' She asked, reaching into her purse. 'Nothing,' I said. 'You have to make a living,' she answered. 'There are other passengers,' I responded. Almost without thinking, I bent and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly. 'You gave an old woman a little moment of joy,' she said. 'Thank you.' I squeezed her hand, and then walked into the dim morning light. Behind me, a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life. I didn't pick up any more passengers that shift. I drove aimlessly lost in thought. For the rest of that day, I could hardly talk. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, or one who was impatient to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked once, then driven away? On a quick review, I don't think that I have done anything more important in my life. We're conditioned to think that our lives

revolve around great moments. But great moments often catch us unaware-beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one.”

See, if we hurry through this season of Advent and rush the coming of our King and Savior, we will miss the beauty of the great moment. We will miss what God is doing in us. Imagine if we rushed the second coming of Christ, as if we could. Imagine if the second coming of Christ came within the years of the early church as Paul and others often expected. Would any of us grow? Would any of us be pushed to the limits of our faith and beyond? Would any of us truly trust the Lord? When you find yourself being impatient and wanting something NOW, let that be an indicator to surrender. To surrender to the process. To surrender to what God is doing in you. To cast all your fears and worries upon Him. We can hope in God not because of our trustworthiness and our faithfulness, but because of His faithfulness. Adam and Eve couldn't wait. They couldn't hope and trust in the one who created them and who brought them life. In this season, I want to encourage you to hope in the coming King. To wait expectantly and fervently for the coming King. To let your waiting be a proclamation to God that you trust Him and you trust His faithfulness to each and everyone of us. God is doing a great work, a mighty work, in you and in me in this season of waiting, of anticipation. On the day that our King comes, we will bask in the joy of our savior. “When these things begin to take place, [we will] stand up and raise [our] heads, because our redemption [through the coming King is here].” We will praise His name and shout out from the rooftops. No person on this earth will hold back our joy and our hope in the coming King. And we will experience this and know this because we waited for the true and only king. We waited for the great and beautiful moment. Amen.