

April 26, 2020
We Want God to Do it Now!

Scripture reading: John 12:20-26

Text: *“Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus” (John 12:20-21).*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are living in a time and society when everything has to happen now. If it does not happen when we think it ought to then we become impatient, we complain and get stressed.

It was well “demonstrated” in the past couple of weeks here in America. We do not have to go far since here in Ohio the Governor issued the stay-at-home order and to making every effort to prevent the spread of this pandemic, but in spite of it many people did not really care about the orders and regulations. They made all kinds of excuses or just convinced themselves in order to legalize their deeds. For example, many did not wear protective masks when they went for shopping or they did not keep the order to stay at home. So people can be impatient, for sure.

In our story we also find some impatient people. Maybe their impatience was driven by their curiosity or spiritual thirst, but they wanted the “solution” now and right away. Some Greeks, converts to Judaism, wanted to see Jesus now. Perhaps they have heard of the many signs and wonders that Christ had done among the people of Israel. Maybe they wanted to witness something miraculous. They have heard about His amazing teachings and they wanted to hear what He has to say.

Yes, Jesus was a miracle worker and was a marvelous person, too. There were times when He healed the sick instantly. In other cases He immediately gave people new purposes, calmed fear in the hearts right away, or forgave sins and brought people closer to the heavenly Father. So there were times when Jesus did things instantly.

Let us admit that this instant, “fix-it now type of God” is who we want. *“He has the power and He should use it to make things happen”*, we may say. It is always easy to worship the Lord God when He gives miraculous healing, provides a job when someone lost it. However, this issue is pretty relevant for many people nowadays. May God give them His grace that those who lost their jobs, due to this pandemic, they may find a

new one or get their old job back. Still it is easier to worship God when He gives peace, guidance, and solution in the midst of confusion, despair, and desperation. Experiencing God's power in these circumstances makes us to praise Him and to give Him thanks for His love and care.

However, how difficult it is to trust in God, and worship and give Him thanks when He does not provide the quick fix and guidance. It leads some people to throw up their hands in disgust and give up on God, while others profess in the midst of the difficulties of life, *"There is one thing I am certain about –God has never deserted me. He has been there right beside me in the middle of every situation of my life. I could not keep on going without Him."*

Let me ask this, How patient are you with God? That might seem a strange question, but it really is not all that weird. Maybe you have prayed and wanted God to fix something right away, but it did not happen. You wanted healing, you wanted a change in your circumstances, or a sign that would show you what direction you should take, or you wanted your spouse, your children, your friends or colleagues to be more understanding, thoughtful, and helpful, but you did not just want it in general, but now and right away.

However, when the answer and the actions do not come as quickly as we want, we lose heart and become depressed, even angry. In such situation we may think that it is God who wants to keep on struggling with our problems.

When we walk with Christ in this life then we may also experience that we struggle with things, we go through painful situations, we are in uncertainty, and get confused. There are times when it is important for us to pray like Jesus did, *"Father, not what I will, but what you will"* (Mark 14:36).

When we profess this truth with pure heart, that God's will be done, then *patience*, this wonderful fruit of the Holy Spirit, begins to grow in us. By this we entrust ourselves, our loved ones, friends, the happenings in life, circumstances, and basically everything to our heavenly Father in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Yours in Christ,
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Pastor