

**AVELEIGH MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY MAY 7, 2017  
YOUR YEAR OF WORSHIP**

**Sermon: PATIENT PEOPLE PLEASE**

**Text: Res.Ps: 145:1-8 NET & Mat. 22:36-40 p. 1062**

*“The LORD is merciful and compassionate; he is patient and demonstrates great loyal love.”  
Psalm 145:8 (NET)*

**INTRO:** One of the ways you grow closer to God is to realize how PATIENT GOD is with you, and one of the ways you grow closer to others is to be PATIENT with them.

**POINT:** What does the Bible teach us about God’s patience?

**A. GOD IS PATIENT**

So Moses cut two tablets of stone just like the originals. He got up early in the morning and climbed Mount Sinai as GOD had commanded him, carrying the two tablets of stone. GOD descended in the cloud and took up his position there beside him and called out the name, GOD. GOD passed in front of him and called out, “GOD, GOD, a God of mercy and grace, endlessly patient...EX. 34:4-6 MSG

**B. GOD’S PATIENCE GIVES US TIME TO BELIEVE.**

*“Remember, our Lord's patience gives people time to be saved.” 2 Peter 3:15a (NLT)*

*“Don't you realize that it is God's kindness that is trying to lead you to him and change the way you think and act?” Romans 2:4b (GW)*

**C. GOD’S PATIENCE GIVES US SPACE TO GROW.**

*“As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him. . .” Romans 14:1a (ESV)*

*“For he knows how weak we are; he remembers we are only dust.” Psalm 103:14 (NLT)*

**D. GOD’S PATIENCE HELPS US WHEN WE FAIL**

*“I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.”  
1 Timothy 1:16 (NIV)*

*“For though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again. . .” Proverbs 24:16a (NIV)*

## **E. GOD'S PATIENCE COMFORTS US WHEN WE ARE DISCOURAGED.**

*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles."* 2 Corinthians 1:3-4a (NIV)

## **F. GOD EXPECTS US TO BE PATIENT WITH OTHERS.**

Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' *Matthew 18:33-32 (NLT)*

### **Conclusion: Practical tips to help you be patient with others:**

- 1. RECOGNIZE THAT PATIENCE IS A CHOICE, NOT A FEELING.**
- 2. PUT SPACE BETWEEN YOUR EMOTIONS AND YOUR REACTIONS.**
- 3. FILL THAT SPACE WITH EMPATHY THAT SEES THE PERSON IN THE PROBLEM.**
- 4. MAKE A CHOICE TO NEVER DO WHAT SOMEONE DESERVES.**
- 5. ADD PRAYER & REPEAT.**

**Prayer:** Jesus, you're so kind to us. We love you. Thank you. Would you help us become more patient people? It's in your holy and amazing name we pray. Amen.

#### **FOUR FOR THE ROAD**

1. Have you ever shown patience to someone?
2. Was being patience with that person difficult
3. Does our relationship with God depend upon being patient?
- 4 . Who might God be asking you to be more patient?

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Call to Worship

Leader: Isaiah 40:31 says, "Those who wait upon the LORD will renew their strength."

All: We will wait patiently on you, Lord.

Leader: Psalm 37:7 says, "Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him."

All: We will wait patiently on you, Lord.

Leader: Psalm 40:1 says, "I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry."

All: We will wait patiently on you, Lord.

Leader: Lamentations 3:24 says, "The LORD is my portion, therefore I will wait for him."

All: We will wait patiently on you, Lord.

Prayer of confession

Gracious God, we bow before you. We confess our hurry, our busyness, our rushing about. We fight against stillness, against quiet, against waiting. In this day and age, waiting is an inconvenience and stirs in us anger and frustration. Yet, what we need is to wait on you. You have asked us to wait – to be still, to listen, to quiet ourselves, to wait. It is in those moments when we sit in waiting that we are able to hear you, to feel you, to experience your sweet presence. Slow us down, God. Help us to relish stillness, to love quiet, and to embrace waiting. Thank you for your grace as we put this into practice. Amen.