



October 9, 2011

MONDAY 10.10.11 Proverbs 14:29; 15:18; 19:11

Our lives are instant - when we want things, we want them NOW. So much for "slow and steady wins the race."

Sermon Oct. 9

"Get Real: Patience -
Rev. Andrea Smith

Scripture Reference:

Things I'd like to remember from this weeks message:

Prayer for Upcoming Week:

Almighty God,

You are one who delivers. You are the rock of our faith. You are the one on which we can put all our hopes, dreams, questions, and concerns.

Help us to trust in you. Help us to realize that perhaps it is not OUR time but a greater, grander picture than we could ever imagine. This is more than an intellectual belief—it is a confidence that you will be dependable in and through all things.

Help us, in all things, to be patient.

Amen.

Our food is instant, our communication is instant, and we live each day looking for answers, assurance, and direction immediately. Yet the bigger picture of life does not always work out that way.

Sometimes we must wait . . . and that requires patience.

- At what times and in what circumstances do you tend to be impatient?
- Patience and impatience affects our relationships with others in our lives. How is this currently happening in your life?
- What changes do you need to make in the way you act and think in order to become more patient?

TUESDAY 10.11.11 James 1:19-27

James is writing to Christians who are experiencing difficulties and disappointments in their faith. In such times it is hard to keep going. It seems that the crucial needs and desires of life are beyond our control.

It is when we feel out of control that we act out of our angst. We lash out at others with our words, our actions, and "react" much quicker than any other time.

James shares that we should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry. It's funny that we hope other will react to us like that—we want them to give us grace . . . Yet we err on the opposite end of the spectrum all too quickly.

- This week, be intent on watching how quick you "react" and become angry. Ask yourself if you were more intent on listening and not speaking, how could patience be more prevalent in your life.

WED. 10.12.11 Psalm 46:10

We want answers from God right now . . . Patiently waiting on direction from God is not something easily done. In the book of John there is a story about the death of one of Jesus' dear friends. In fact - it also includes the shortest scripture verse in the entire Bible "Jesus wept." That's how dear Lazarus was to Jesus.

Mary and Martha, Lazarus' sisters, come running to Jesus, asking Him to heal Lazarus, who was critically ill. I imagine since they knew the relationship that existed between Lazarus and Jesus, they expected that Jesus would come immediately to his aid. The scripture says, however, that Jesus stayed two more days in the place where He was. It was in those two days that Lazarus died.

The Psalmist writes "Be still, and know that I am God." It's a command God gave his people throughout the generations. From Moses when he was leading the people from slavery to freedom to the Psalmist David who was fleeing for his life . . . Sometimes patience and answers come when we stop trying to "find" them ourselves, like Mary and Martha, and simply be still and allow God to speak and act in our lives.

Shaun Rush - awaiting surgery @ Baptist Hospital in Winston on his ankle following motor-bike accident. Son of Bob & Julie Rush.

When do you get frustrated with people that are close to you? I'm not talking about the car in front of you on the highway that will not go faster than 10 miles an hour . . . I'm talking about those that you care about that seem to have the greatest ability to hurt you and steal your joy.

Most of the time, we get frustrated when we feel that we know what is best for those folks and they choose to act in a way contrary to our opinion. For instance, our children. We feel we know the best decisions to make, etc. but they, in their own wisdom, feel they know far better than we do.

I imagine that is what God feels like when we seek to go our own path rather than seek and follow the one guided by him. Yet even though we choose to go in different directions and different pathways and end up turning around halfway there because we realize we are wrong and there's a better way, God doesn't get angry or desert us. He acts in patience, kindness, grace, and love.

- Is there an area of your life in which you need to give it to God and rely on his wisdom and path rather than your own?

Don't forget . . .

- **Meet in the Auditorium @ 11:15 to chat with Lee re upcoming involvement of youth in youth ministry of West/Williamson's Chapel.**
- **Ice Cream Social TONIGHT from 5 - 7 pm @ Brawley Campus to welcome Pastor Jan.**
- **LifeGroup following worship in classroom to right of commons area.**

FRIDAY

10.14.11

2 Peter 3:9

If we are called to live like Christ lived and love as he loved, then it is in the most dire of circumstances that we should react in the same manner in which he would. When we find ourselves in situations that demand patience if we can look at the situation or people with a lens of love that will impact our entire point of view.

For instance, if you are tailgating someone (I have a SMALL tendency to do that on occasion - but not after this week's sermon) and you stop thinking about how they are getting in your way but instead think of them as your grandparents OR your child that is just learning to drive . . . It changes your perspective. It's easy to practice patience when we look at a situation in love rather than judgment, ego, and/or arrogance.

- Name a situation in which you needed to change your lens. How would that have impacted the outcome?

SATURDAY

10.15.11

Colossians 3:12-17

When we look at Jesus and his experience on the cross, somehow the irritations and the things that put pressure on us just seem to pale in comparison. If we can just take a fraction of his patience and perseverance and apply it to the things we face in life, then our lives will be forever changed.

The key to remember here is that when Jesus underwent those circumstances in which he had to practice great patience, he did so without passing on the anger or frustration and without inflicting it on others.

- What is an area in your life in which you need to practice patience instead of taking your anger and frustration and imposing it on others?
- Name one thing you could DO differently that would break a particular cycle of retaliation and vengeance? Is it something within your own life or something that would impact a situation beyond your own social realm?