

The Patience of Jesus

“But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”
James 1:4

I. Noah Webster’s 1828 Dictionary defines “patience” this way: “A calm temper which bears evils without murmuring or expecting good without discontent.”

A man's car stalled in the heavy traffic as the light turned green. All his efforts to start the engine failed, and a chorus of honking behind him made matters worse. He finally got out of his car and walked back to the first driver and said, "I'm sorry, but I can't seem to get my car started. If you'll go up there and give it a try, I'll stay here and blow your horn for you.

A. Words are sometimes like stars.

1. You see a star shining in the sky, and to your eye it is a single star.
 - a. **The astronomer then brings his telescope and to your amazement it is not a single star but a double star.**
 - b. Just so there are words which shine like stars in the firmament of speech, single stars they seem until we subject them to scrutiny. Then we discover that two meanings burn within the confines of the letters.
 - c. **The word “patience is not a single, but a double star.**
2. First of all it means: “calmly waiting for something hoped for.”
 - a. **In this sense even the animals are endowed with the virtue of patience. See the cat watching hour after hour, waiting for the appearance of a mouse.**
 - b. It is this virtue of patience that mankind has in greater or lesser degrees. Patience a lot of times is mistaken as genius.
 - c. **We can see this in the movie “Brave Heart.”**
3. Secondly, it is the uncomplaining endurance of tribulation.
 - a. **You can see this when a person suffers with some physical infirmity and yet doesn’t complain or even rebel against their fate.**
 - b. God does not offer us a way out of the testings of life. He offers us a way through, and that makes all the difference.
 - c. **Cripple him, and you have a Sir Walter Scott. Lock him in a prison cell, and you have a John Bunyan. Bury him in the snows of Valley Forge, and you have a George Washington. Raise him in abject poverty, and you have an**

Abraham Lincoln. Strike him down in infantile paralysis, and he becomes Franklin Roosevelt. Deafen him, and you have a Ludwig van Beethoven. Have him or her born black in a society filled with racial discrimination, and you have a Booker T. Washington, a Marian Anderson, a George Washington Carver. . . . Call him a slow learner; "retarded," and write him off an uneducable, and you have an Albert Einstein.

B. If you want to see patience in both its forms raised to its highest power without a defect and without a flaw, you will find it in Jesus of Nazareth.

1. If patience means the calm waiting for something hoped for then Jesus perfectly demonstrates it.

a. He waited in a little country town in Galilee for thirty years before He entered into the work He felt God had given Him to do.

b. At the age of twelve He realized that He had to be about His Father's business. But then there is an 18 year period between then and when He actually going about His father's business.

c. He waited on God's timing. Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 & 8:6

2. Even when He finally started His ministry, He didn't get ahead of God, He was patient.

a. He said, I will not do what others have done; I will choose the slow and toilsome way.

b. I will not cut the knot, It will untie it.

c. I will not push the world; I will draw it.

d. I will not conquer the world by military methods; I will win it by serving it.

3. He seemed slow to those who were around Him. It seemed like He purposely slowed things down when people around became impatient.

a. In Matthew 14, He sends the crowd away that had been building to make Him King.

b. In John 7:3-6, He resists His own families attempt to do things faster.

c. Matthew 8:4 - Matthew 16:20 - Mark 9:9 - Luke 8:56.

4. The Father also had to slow things down when men tried to get ahead of His plan.

a. In Luke 4:29-30 - They tried throwing Jesus off a cliff but God prevented it.

b. In John 7:30 - The Pharisees seek to seize Him.

C. Jesus was patient with His enemies.

1. How could God even make a world like this?

2. How can He allow the things that are happening to continue?

3. We need to understand that He is patient, infinitely patient, and is willing to wait until human hearts surrender.

a. **Not only does He wait, but he also suffers indignity at the hands of His creation without blazing up in anger and consuming us.**

b. We may be ungrateful, insolent, irreverent, rebellious, but He is patient.

c. **We may refuse to do the things He asks us to do and persist in doing the things that are contrary to His will, but He is patient.**

d. We may injure ourselves and hurt others. Nevertheless He will not strike us down.

f. **He will give us another day, and still another, and still another.**

g. His hope is that perhaps tomorrow the win will be repented of and the prodigal will come home.

D. Jesus was patient with His friends which can harder than with your enemies. Because you expect your enemies act the way they do.

1. His friends did not understand Him.

2. His own mother and brothers were not in sympathy with Him.

3. The disciples to whom He gave Himself were constantly failing to catch the importance of the things that He told them.

a. Matthew 18:21-22 - *"Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"*

b. John 3:12-13 - *"If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how shall you believe if I tell you heavenly things?"*

4. They were slow and stupid. Matthew 16:5-12.

5. They were petty and selfish

- a. Matthew 18:21-22 - *“Then Peter came and said to Him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”*
- b. Luke 22:24-25 - *“And there arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest.”*

6. He demanded much of His disciples, but He did not demand it all at once.

7. He said even if a man has a little faith, even as small as a mustard seed, he has enough to start with.

8. Great men have oftentimes been notoriously impatient with their weaker and more incompetent brothers. Strong themselves they could not sympathize with weaker people. Smart themselves they cannot endure the stupidity of others

9. To every follower of Jesus, the Almighty is a longsuffering God. He has vast plans running through the ages, and He is willing to wait for their fulfillment.

Have patience! All things are difficult before they become easy.

How poor are they that have not patience! What wound did ever heal but by degrees?

One moment of patience may prevent disaster; one moment of impatience may ruin a life.

Patience: accepting a difficult situation without giving God a deadline to remove it

A pearl is a garment of patience that enclosed an annoyance.

The difficult things take a long time--the impossible take a little longer.

God often puts us in situations that are too much for us so that we will learn that no situation is too much for him.

God promises a safe landing but not a calm passage.