Wait on Jesus

Reflection by Japhet De Oliveira, Boulder, CO.

In the final moments reviewing again the passage for this week at my Church, II Samuel 1-5, the overwhelming message is: Wait on Jesus.

That, of course, rubs against all we are driven toward today. In an era where we live for the moment, when download speeds are just never fast enough and the concept of “waiting” seems ridiculous. I can barely cope with the three dots that appear on my iPhone Message app when waiting for a reply (or not as the case may be!). I was told before moving to Boulder, how hip and cool and relaxed people are here. They certainly appear relaxed, maybe for a minority of those using some other naturally grown green materials, but otherwise they are super competitive. The average time before many wait to honk their horn when the lights turn green is about a nanosecond. The concept of “waiting” is foreign here. Tension is clearly everywhere.

David had been anointed King fifteen years earlier in I Samuel. Saul and Jonathan are now dead. Yet it will take another seven years before he is able to become King of both North and South. Waiting on Jesus had become a way of life for him. Yet tension was everywhere.

There is a moment of release to reduce the tension that only happens over ten verses in II Samuel 1:17-27. A simple yet profound poem that many might skip over, yet intwined in its
carefully chosen words is the permission to admit, at long last, not everything is okay. While we live life and wait on the Jesus, the tension and pressure does not end.

Our tendency is to avoid addressing that tension and pressure.

"Elephant in the room" is an English metaphorical idiom for an obvious truth that is either being ignored or going unaddressed. The idiomatic expression also applies to an obvious problem or risk no one wants to discuss. It is based on the idea that an elephant in a room would be impossible to overlook. Of course, you are more then welcome to exchange "elephant" for any other metaphorical entity that seems more appropriate to you.

David, in his poem, encourages us to engage the “elephant in the room.”

- It is something we avoid and prefer to be mute than to engage.
- It is why when one of our friends suffer we often, for fear of our safety, stay quiet.
- It is why we hold onto, “better that one go, than all of us are lost.”
- It is the perfectionist masks we wear to avoid the truth.
- It might be time to really trust Jesus and engage the “elephants in the room.”

Recalibrate

1. What are the elephants in our Church?
2. What are the elephants in our lives?
3. And then, what are you prepared to do?

Feel free to send thoughts or comments to Japhet De Oliveira.