



"Waiting for the Messiah" – December 2022
Thoughts to Ponder

1. The Hebrews waited many centuries for the coming of the Messiah.
 - a. What's the longest wait you've endured? For what were you waiting?
 - b. While in a season of waiting, Dr. Phillip Brooks said, "I'm in a hurry, but God is not!" Would you have said the same thing?
 - c. In retrospect, how did God work on you during that season of unmet expectations?

2. Upon hearing that the Messiah had come and their waiting was over, the Hebrew religious leaders did not respond . . .
 - a. . . perhaps because they overestimated the importance of their work.
 1. Recall a time when your work took precedence over other facets of your life. What negative costs did you pay?
 2. Can others see by the commitments and sacrifices you're making that the Messiah has come into your life?

- b. . . perhaps because they overestimated their own significance.
 - 1. Recall a time when a prideful, self-centered attitude caused you to be indifferent to the input of others. What negative costs did you pay?
 - 2. Can others see by a reduced sense of personal significance that the Messiah's humility is reflected in your life?
- c. . . perhaps because they underestimated the changes afoot.
 - 1. Recall a time when a preference for the status quo kept you from considering a new way of thinking and doing. What negative costs did you pay?
 - 2. The coming of the Messiah always changes things. Has Jesus come into your life? If so, what changes have you noticed? If not, what is keeping you from responding?

