

December 26, 2021

4. Jesus Is Waiting for Us to Respond — **Revelation 3:20-4:11, NRSV**

In the previous studies, we have focused on God being the actor. God acts while we wait. But in Revelation 3:20, we are invited to adopt a different kind of posture. We are the actors and Jesus is the one who is waiting. John paints this beautiful picture of Jesus offering us an opportunity to dine with him. We are not forced. We are not coerced. We are invited.

This invitation is one that requires us to accept, and it practically affects our lives. Responding to Jesus' invitation can look different depending on context. At times we may be called to share what we have with those who do not have much. We may be called to be advocates and to demonstrate our commitment to peace and justice.

Recently, the Midwest US was devastated by tornadoes, leaving many people dead, injured, and without shelter. Whole towns were destroyed. One of the towns most affected by the tornadoes was Mayfield, Kentucky. Upon seeing what had happened, **Jim Finch** responded to the call for help. He packed up his truck full of food and water and drove an hour and a half to get to Mayfield. He parked his truck in the middle of town and began grilling food for the people who had just lost their homes. When asked why he did it, he simply said, "It just needed to be done."

This is an example of responding to Jesus. In Matthew 25:40, Jesus tells the disciples, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Responding to Jesus will call us to be with the "least of these." Following Christ, both individually and communally, allows us the opportunity to participate in what God is doing in our world. God has conquered the evil in this world, and now we are invited to be part of God's victory. Jesus is waiting for us; how will we respond?

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Resources for this session

Looking for participant guide page numbers in the leader guide? The page numbers in the leader guide work for both guides.

Salt & Light Videos

Owen Burkholder is the presenter for unit 1, Participating with God by Waiting. These teaching videos are great for leader preparation or introducing each weekly session. The videos are free and available on [MennoMedia's YouTube channel](#).