

Introduction: -Getting haircut – not interested in the stimulating magazines.

-Lab/test results. *Often find ourselves waiting. Disciples are told to wait.*

Background: Who waited, and Where? Apostles, Women, Mary and Jesus’ brothers – in and “upper room”

I. “Waiting” time is not wasted time – if we use it well.

A. Devoted to Worship and Prayer

1. Worship – Luke 24:53 Where did we leave off?

2. Prayer -

a. They were *devoting* themselves to prayer – persevering in prayer

1) From “proskatereo” – constant, busy, persistent - used in 2:42 & 6:4

2) Not driven to prayer by *crisis* – but by *promise!*

b. They were *United* in Prayer. Of “one accord.”

1) “together” from *homothumadon* – “united” Acts 4:24; 15:25; Romans 15:6

c. Prayer Brought them together *relationally*

d. Bound them together *spiritually*

ASIDE/APPLICATION: Session seeking to define our mission and goals *so that* – we are “homothumadon” “all together” “in one accord” “in unity of purpose and in prayer”.

e. With clear direction in prayer! **They knew exactly what they were praying for.**

NOTE: God’s promise, His sovereign plan does not preclude or render prayer needless or useless. On the contrary, it gives us every reason to pray with confidence, conviction and boldness – because we know this is the prayer he will hear and answer!

B. Preparation – for what lies ahead.

1. The Need?? **Death of Judas.** He was one of the 12. He was no longer with them. *The scriptures foretold it!*

a. *Peter has become a spokesman.*

b. Luke explains to Gentile readers – 18-19, “parenthesis”

2. The Warrant/Reason (to fill his place?) **“To fulfill the scriptures”**

a. The *Testimony* of Scripture -16,17 OT “testimonies” were texts which found fulfillment in Christ and later in the ministry of the church.

1) Psalms were interpreted in a messianic sense (especially “royal” Psalms – 2, 22, 72)

I. "Waiting" time is not wasted time – if we use it well. (continued)

B. Preparation – for what lies ahead.

2. The Warrant/Reason (to fill his place?)

a. The *Testimony* of Scripture

2) Jesus the Messiah is of David's line. Acts 4:25-28; John 13:18 Jesus quotes Ps.41:9 in announcing a traitor in their midst.

b. Judas must be replaced. Psalms 69:25; Ps. 109:8 **The appeal was to the scriptures interpreted in the light of Christ revealed.** Luke 24:27; John 5:39, 40

c. The testimony of the Savior - Luke 22:28-30

d. And of Paul - 1 Corinthians 15:8,9

3. Matthias is Chosen

a. The requirements? Essential Qualifications:

1) With them from the time of John's Baptism of Jesus

2) Witness *of* the Resurrection and Ascension

b. **God does the choosing!!** Proverbs 16:33 They were preparing – so they were ready when God would give them the Holy Spirit .

II. Waiting is often in God's plan. We might say it *is* God's plan.

A. It is Hard Work!

1. Examples of the Saints??

2. We all must learn to wait on God – for him to fulfill his perfect plans
To finish the work he has begun in us – to bring glory to himself through the lives of his saints.

Waiting is Hard Work. It is seeking – praying – and preparing for what God will yet do.

B. Wait in a manner that bears fruit. Isaiah 40

III. Learn to Wait Well.

A. Waiting for His plans for us to be revealed. Pray – for Christ to be revealed in us and through us. Prepare your hearts & minds to be ready to give Him glory when

- the test results come in

- the trial hits home

- sorrow overtakes you

- when you are sinned against

- when the hope and promise of the gospel is rejected

B. Waiting for His return? Pray for His coming. Let us never stop preparing for that day!

What are you waiting for??? What will you do while you wait??