

“Waiting on God”

Acts 1:12-26

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- So much of life can be described as “Hurry up and wait!”
- Question is: “How can we make time waiting productive?”
- Sometimes we must “wait on God”

Waiting on God

A. The Wait

1. The Command to “Wait” in Jerusalem until they received the power of the Spirit.
 - Luke 24:49-- *“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry (or wait) in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high!”*
2. The Duration of the Waiting Period-- 10 days Acts 1:3
3. The “Wait” illustrates the “Transitional” nature of the Book of Acts.

B. What to Do as We Wait on God

- Acts 1:12-26-- *“Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey. And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said, “Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry.” (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.) “For it is written in the Book of Psalms: “Let his dwelling place be desolate, And let no one live in it’; and, ‘Let another take his office.’ “Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.” And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, “You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.” And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles. “*

1. Obey the Commands We Already Have

- Acts 1:12 -- *“Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey.”*
 - a. Jesus had given the command for them to wait in Jerusalem
 - Acts 1:4-- *“And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me.”*
 - b. Waiting becomes a test of obedience.
 - c. Illustration of one who failed to wait and thus forfeited God’s blessings on His life.-- Saul
 - 1 Samuel 10:8-- *“Go down before me to Gilgal; and surely I will come down to you to offer burnt*

offerings and make sacrifices of peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, till I come to you and show you what you should do."

- 1 Samuel 13:8-10 -- *"he (that is, Saul) waited seven days, according to the time set by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him. So Saul said, 'Bring a burnt offering and peace offerings here to me.' And he offered the burnt offering. Now it happened, as soon as he had finished presenting the burnt offering, that Samuel came."*
- 1 Samuel 13:13-14 -- *"You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you. For now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."*

d. Waiting is also a test of our faith!

2. Fellowship with Other Believers as We Wait

- Acts 1:13-14 -- *"And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers."*
- a. Makeup of the Group that gathered in the Upper Room
- 1) The Apostles
 - 2) The "women"-- Luke 8
 - 3) Mary the Mother of Jesus
 - a) Mary's relationship to Jesus afforded her no special privileges.
 - Mark 3:33-35-- *"Who is my mother or my brothers?" And He looked around in a circle of those who sat about Him, and said, 'Here are my mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of God in My brother and My sister and mother. '"*
 - Luke 11:27-28 -- *"And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, 'Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!' But He said, 'More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.'"*
 - b) Mary viewed herself as a bondservant of the Lord in need of Savior.
 - Luke 1:46-49 -- *"My soul magnifies the LORD and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For henceforth, all generations will call me blessed. For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation."*
 - 4) His Brothers
 - Matthew 13:55-56a -- *"Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called 'Mary'? And his brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? And his sisters, are they not all with us?"*
- b. Waiting can be very lonely!
- c. God never intended for us to wait by ourselves
- Hebrews 10:25-- *"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encouraging one another--and all the more as we see the Day approaching."*

3. Devote Ourselves to Prayer

- Acts 1:14 -- *"These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers."*
- a. There is power in Corporate Prayer
- Matthew 18:19-20-- *"if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My Name, I am there in the midst of them."*
- b. Persistent, persevering prayer marks the early church.