

“In God’s Waiting Room”

Acts 1:12-26

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- *“Would you hold, please?”*
- Apostles are in “God’s Waiting Room”
 - Acts 1:4-5-- *“not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, ‘which’, he said, ‘you have heard from me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’”*

In God’s Waiting Room

1. Obey the Commands you already know

- Acts 1:12-- *“Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey.”*

2. Seek out Fellowship with Other Believers

- 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.”*

3. Devote Yourself to Prayer

- Acts 1:14a -- *“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication.”*

Acts 1:15-26-- *“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.”*

4. Spend time studying God’s Word

a. **Peter demonstrates a command of the Old Testament Scriptures in his preaching and ministry.**

b. **What accounts for Peter’s knowledge?**

- Acts 4:13-- *“... saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.”*
- 1) **The “filling of the Spirit”?**
- Matthew 10:19-20 -- *“But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.”*

2) Peter's High View of the Scriptures

a) Believed in the Veracity of the Scriptures, that what God says must come to pass.--

- Acts 1:16a-- *"Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled,"*
- Matthew 5:17-- *"Do not think that I have come to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill."*

b) Believed in the Inspiration of Scripture

- Acts 1:16b-- *"which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas"*
- 2 Peter 1:21 -- *"For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."*
- 2 Timothy 3:14-17 -- *"continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood, you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."*

3) Knowledge comes through the Study of the Scriptures

a) Jesus Christ opened his spiritual eyes so that he could understand the Scriptures.

- Luke 24:44-45 -- *"Then He said to them, 'These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning me.' And He opened their understanding that they might comprehend the Scriptures."*

b) The Spirit of God enables us today to understand the Scriptures.

- 1 John 2:27-- *"But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him."*

c) Jesus Christ has also given gifted men to the church to expound God's Word.

- Ephesians 4:11-13-- *"gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."*

5. Take Care of Unfinished Business

a. Questions surrounding Judas's defection and death

b. Peter's Answers from God's Word

- Acts 1:20 -- *"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.'"*
- Psalm 69:25 -- *"Let their dwelling place be desolate; Let no one live in their tents."*
- Psalm 109:8 -- *"Let his days be few, and another take his office."*

1) Both are ROYAL Psalms.

2) Both speak of the ENEMIES of the King.

- Psalm 109:5-- *"repay me evil for good and hatred for my friendship!"*
- John 6:64-- *"There are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe and who would betray Him."*

3) Both are IMPRECATORY Psalms.

6. Prepare Now for Future Ministry

- Acts 1:21-26 -- *“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.”*
- a. **Why replace Judas?**
- 1) **In fulfillment of Psalm 109:8 , “may another take his office”**
 - 2) **To make possible the fulfillment of Matthew 19:27-28**
 - Matthew 19:27-- *“See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore, what shall we have?”*
 - Matthew 19:28-- *“So Jesus said to them, ‘Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.’”*
 - 3) **Why did they replace Judas but not James when killed by Herod in Acts 12:2?**
- b. **Why Matthias and not Paul?**
- 1) **The Choice of Matthias**
 - a) **They chose Matthias by casting a lot**
 - Proverbs 16:33 -- *“The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.”*
 - b) **Before casting the lot, they prayed for God’s direction**
 - c) **Matthias fully met the criteria of having been a follower of Jesus from the time of His baptism and was an eyewitness of the resurrected Christ.**
 - 2) **Why not Paul?**
 - a) **Does not meet the criteria**
 - b) **His apostleship was unique.**
 - 1 Corinthians 15:8-10-- *“Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace towards me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of which was with me.”*
 - c) **The mission of the Twelve was primarily to the nation of Israel; Paul’s mission was to the Gentile nations.**