

Acts 1:12-14 “Waiting”

Outline:

Recap:

Purpose: Certainty

Preparation for the Spirit’s arrival: (MacArthur)

- right message (v. 2)
- right manifestation (v. 3)
- might (v. 5)
- mystery (v. 7) — He could come tomorrow / fuels fire for the mission today
 - How different would you live today if you thought he was coming tomorrow?
- mission (v. 8)
- motive (v. 11)

Now they wait...

They know what to say... they’ve seen Jesus alive.. they know that they’ll be clothed with power from on high... they know that Jesus is coming back one day... they know the mission... and have right motive...

Now they just wait...

But I want you to see something here in 12-14 about their “waiting”

When you think about waiting, what does it involve?

We don’t know how to wait do we?

- fast food/convenience culture
- Amazon Prime isn’t even as fast as they used to be

Now imagine you are the disciples...

While they were waiting:

1. They were obedient to what they had heard. (v. 12)

- they returned to Jerusalem
- v. 4
- Luke 24:48-53**
 - as far out as Bethany - Behind the Mount of Olives
 - Sabbath’s day journey - 3/4 mile
- while they were waiting, they obeyed the last thing that they had heard from Him
- He told them to stay in Jerusalem
- they knew the mission would start there
- that’s where the Spirit would come as well
- but while they waiting, they remained obedient

***Truth: in our waiting, keep obeying the last thing the Lord has told you**

- keep walking in obedience
- obedience is the mark of the Christian life
- we are called to a life of obedience to the command of our Lord
- waiting isn't idleness
- trusting in God is not inactive
- we don't just sit back and woe is me, no we keep walking with the Lord
- we keep trusting Him each day..
- we keep obeying what we know
- if you are waiting for the Lord in some way... keep walking in obedience now

2. They went to a familiar place. (v. 13a)

- upper room (Luke 22:7-13)
- John 13-17 (teachings on the Spirit)
- won't leave them as orphans
- the last night with Jesus before His death
- here I'm sure, they reflected on this night
- Remember Jesus words and promises
- I'm sure they thought back on the times when He said he would die and rise again
- and He did
- They meditated on the faithfulness of God

***Truth: In our waiting, visit familiar places.**

- times in your life where you experienced God
- when's the last time you visited in your mind those places?
- places
- Scripture
- God is our refuge
- yet he is invisible
- How do we seek refuge in an invisible God (2 ways)
 1. In His tangible Word
 - In the seasons of waiting, God's word stands strong/active
 2. In His people

3. They stayed together. (v. 13b)

- all these in v.14 with one accord
- they stayed connected to one another
- shared purpose, passion, beliefs
- they didn't isolate themselves while waiting
- and this was the trajectory for these guys
- they always met together... worshipped together
- they didn't do life apart - they stayed connected to their people
- **Hebrews 10:23-25: Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.**

***Truth: In our waiting, stay connected to God's people.**

- the church is a refuge in itself
- when you are in a season of waiting, stay connected with people with shared values, passions, and beliefs
- in these seasons, we are vulnerable to deception
- stay close to people who care for you and love you
- stay close to people who want you to be conformed into the image of Christ
- who desire for you to be happy and HOLY

4. They prayed. (v. 14)

- they stayed together...and prayed
- not just the apostles, but women and Mary and Jesus' brothers
- all of these met in one accord and prayed
- prayed for the Holy Spirit to come
- prayed for power in the mission
- prayed for God's will to be known
- prayed for his kingdom to come and be built
- prayed for his return
- prayed for the Lord of the harvest to send laborers

***Truth: in our waiting, pray fervently.**

- pray
- confessed dependence
- **James 5:16 - Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.**

The apostles were being the church before the church was ever born.

Are you in a season of waiting?

1. Keep being obedient
2. Go to familiar places
3. Stay connected to God's people
4. Pray to the Lord

Small Group Questions:

1. What spoke to you from the sermon?
2. How would you live differently today if you knew Christ was returning tomorrow?
3. Why do you think that waiting is so hard? Have you ever heard the Lord say wait? Are you currently in a season of waiting?
4. The apostles were waiting for the Spirit to come. We are waiting for the Lord to return. How does the promise of His return impact the way we live now? Are you awaiting Him to return?
5. What was the last thing the Lord told you to do? Have you been obedient to Him?
6. What or where are those “familiar places” in your life? How can “going back” to those places energize your faith in waiting? (Share your own)
7. Why is it important to stay connected to God’s people in seasons of waiting? How has the church blessed you personally? Why is it important to be a member of a local church?
8. How have you seen prayer work in your life? Why do we need to pray?
9. How have you responded when it seems like your prayers aren’t being answered?
10. How often do you pray for the mission of God in saving those who are lost? If not much, why do you think that is?