

## Hurry Up and Wait – Acts 1:12-26

Have you ever been a part of something spectacular but had to wait before sharing it with anyone else? Examples – a movie, a proposal, a pregnancy

The disciples bore witness to the resurrected Jesus! Take a moment to process that! *What does it mean? What should they do in response?*

Jesus commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem but to wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon them, and then to go and be His witnesses!

*But how long must they wait? How will they know when it comes? What effect will it have?* All of these questions must have flooded their minds!

*What would you have done if you were in their shoes? How do you prepare for something like that?* And does waiting imply that you do nothing?

*Who likes to wait? Who likes to be patient? Who likes to not be in control?* This was what the disciples were faced with here in Acts Ch. 1!

So what did they do in response to this time of waiting? Vs. 14 – “All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.”

In their time of waiting they turned to God in prayer, and they also turned to one another for support. We can learn a valuable lesson here!

*When we are faced with times of indecision, where do we turn?* We would be wise to follow the disciple’s example, and turn to God in prayer, and to also turn to our brothers & sisters in the faith for support.

Digging a little deeper into the response of the disciples, we can see that while they were waiting they also were searching the Scriptures. In vs. 15-20, Peter stands up and applies OT Scripture to their current situation.

During the 40 days that Jesus was with them after the resurrection, He opened their eyes to all that they had missed in the Scriptures. Now, after His ascension, they continued to search the Scriptures for God’s messages!

They recognized that God’s voice is heard through the pages of Scripture, so that is where they turned for answers! *Do we do the same today?*

If you need confirmation that all Scripture is God’s inspired Word here it is!

After prayer & searching the Scriptures, the disciples discerned that they needed to find a replacement for Judas. *But how? Upon what criteria?*

Vs. 21-22- reveals their two criteria for being considered for such a position:

- 1) Someone who has been w/them & with Jesus since the beginning!
- 2) Someone who is a witness to the resurrection!

These two criteria ensure reliability and unity – both of which will be incredibly important to the spread of the gospel & the growth of the church.

As you can see, the disciples were not just waiting & doing nothing, they were praying, searching the Scriptures for God’s guidance & getting ready!

This is the duty of all Christians & all churches today! When we are waiting for answers, are we taking the appropriate action in that time of waiting?

*What would it look like for us to pray together, to seek God’s will thru His Word, & to get organized & prepared for God to act in our lives today?*

I believe that if we applied these principles to our lives today, our perception & our reaction to times of waiting and indecision would change!

Change came for the disciples as they experienced these 10 days of waiting for God to act & the result was a new found trust in God & His sovereignty.

*Have you had such an experience?* Have you discovered such a trust in God that no matter your situation you know that God will lead you forward?

*What difficult decisions are you faced with today?* Apply the same principles the disciples did in Acts 1 & see if God’s good purpose does not reveal itself.

- 1) Pray for wisdom & guidance to make the right decision
- 2) Read the Scriptures to hear God’s voice
- 3) Don’t make your decision in a vacuum
- 4) Set up criteria consistent with God’s Word
- 5) Trust God to provide the right answer

Times of waiting & indecision can be frustrating, but they can also be times of great preparation for what God has in store for the future!

Acts 1 ends w/the disciples, for the first time being called apostles! God was transitioning His learners/followers into His messengers in this world!

## 5-6-18 Hurry Up and Wait – Acts 1:12-26

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