

- I. My Notes ... WWC message 9/13
- II. Series: A Disciples Life – Our Daily Journey
 - Title: Just Wait
 - Text: Acts 1:12-26
 - Quote: In the circumstances that you are facing, God is at work. He is shaping you for something that you may not realize. It starts with trust and prayer and ends with a purposeful daily life. Pastor Rick
- III. Introduction
 - “Our world is in pain...: (Annalena Baerbock, President, United Nations 80th General Assembly). I’m sure that this is something that is obvious to many who are listening (or reading) this message. There are grim realities facing millions across the globe – from children starving in Gaza and Afghan girls barred from school – to families in Ukraine hiding from missile attacks, and Pacific Islanders watching their homes swallowed by the sea. In this nation, violence is on the rise. With as many as 83 school shootings being reported (56 in K thru 12 and 27 on College Campuses) we begin to see the fear and hurt that permeates our nation right now. With many talking about the shooting of Charlie Kirk on 9/10 at a Utah campus and today being the 24th anniversary of 9/11, the question of our country healing is becoming significant. We are living in moments where the days can feel overwhelming and uncertain.
 - And yet, in the midst of this chaos, we find ourselves in a season of waiting. Waiting for peace. Waiting for healing. Waiting for clarity. Waiting for God to move. Let me remind you of something that Solomon said ... *“I also know that whatever God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it, and nothing taken away from it. God has made it this way, so that men will fear him. Whatever exists now has already been, and whatever will be has already been; for God will seek to do again what has occurred in the past. I saw something else on earth: In the place of justice, there was wickedness, and in the place of fairness, there was wickedness. I thought to myself, “God will judge both the righteous and the wicked; for there is an appropriate time for every activity, and there is a time of judgment for every deed.” (Ecclesiastes*

3:14-17 NET). God is faithful, He is in control. God is good ... It is all about Him.

- So, we continue to wait. We continue to hope. Jesus' Disciples knew this kind of waiting. In Acts 1:12–26, we meet a group of disciples who had just witnessed the ascension of Jesus. They weren't given a timeline for the arrival of the Holy Spirit. They weren't handed a strategy for church growth or a list of the next steps to accomplish. They were simply told to wait. But their waiting wasn't passive—it was prayerful, obedient, and united. And in that upper room, God was preparing them for something far greater than they could imagine.
- Today, as we face global unrest and personal uncertainty, this passage invites us to ask: How do we wait well? How do we prepare our hearts, our homes, and our communities for the Spirit's leading? Let's step into the upper room together—and discover what faithful waiting looks like in a world that desperately needs hope.

IV. Continuing the Story

- **Acts 1:12-14 NASB**

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. 13 When they had entered the city, they went up to the upper room where they were staying; that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. 14 These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

- It's easy to overlook. Without instructions or a plan, the Disciples did what they knew to do – they were obedient to the words of Jesus. Jesus told them not to leave Jerusalem (vs. 4) and that sometime in the future they would be “baptized” (immersed in) with the Holy Spirit (vs. 5). They went back to the Upper Room, where they had spent time with Jesus – listening and learning.
- Think about the group that was the foundation for Churches today. Men and women assembled obediently waiting and praying. They were Jesus' Disciples (who He had tasked with building the church) and ordinary people. There were

members of the Lord's earthly family – who didn't believe He was the Messiah (see John 7:5) until after the Resurrection. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was with them. Their focus was Jesus. They worshiped Him and were grateful for the Risen Christ, magnifying God for His goodness and grace. The initial 120 were regular people doing what they had been told to do.

- Prayer plays a vital role throughout the book of Acts. You will find many instances of prayer before or during situations that the church founders faced. I'm sure that there is a lesson here for all of us today. Obedience is essential, even when we are not sure of the next step. Obedience in the moment is key. And prayer should always be the first place we go.

V. Next Steps

- **Acts 1:15-26 NASB**

At this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together), and said, "Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was counted among us and received his share in this ministry." (Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out. 19 And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem; so that in their own language that field was called Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) "For it is written in the book of Psalms,

'LET HIS HOMESTEAD BE MADE DESOLATE, AND LET NO ONE DWELL IN IT'; and, 'LET ANOTHER MAN TAKE HIS OFFICE.'

"Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us— beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection." So they put forward two men, Joseph called Barsabbas (who was also called Justus), and Matthias. And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two You have chosen to occupy this ministry and apostleship from which Judas

turned aside to go to his own place.” And they drew lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

- Peter chose to speak out. This makes sense as the Lord had designated him as “leader” (Matthew 16:19; John 21:15-17). It seems that Peter was considered the first by most of these followers too, as his name frequently heads each list. Peter spoke with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, even though they didn’t recognize it at that moment. Remember, Jesus breathed on them and said, **“Receive the Holy Spirit”** (John 20:22). Warren Wiersbe explains, “We must also remember that the Lord had opened up their minds to understand the Scriptures (Luke 24:45). When Peter referred to Psalms 69:25 and 109:8, he was not doing this on his own, but was being led by the Spirit of God. These people definitely believed in the divine inspiration of the Old Testament Scriptures (Acts 1:16; and see 3:18; 4:25), and they also believed that these Scriptures had a practical application to their situation.” (The Bible Exposition Commentary, Vol.1)
- Perhaps it was in their time of prayer and worship that the words of Jesus which Matthew had recorded (there is a similar context in Luke 22) came to mind. **“Jesus said to them, *“Truly I tell you, in the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”* (Matthew 19:28 CSB).** This may have prompted Peter, understanding what Judas had done, to find a replacement. But they were specific qualifications.
- Please follow me here, as this is important. The qualifications for an Apostle are laid out in detail. **“So now we must choose a replacement for Judas from among the men who were with us the entire time we were traveling with the Lord Jesus—from the time he was baptized by John until the day he was taken from us. Whoever is chosen will join us as a witness of Jesus’ resurrection.” (Acts 1:21-22 NLT).**
- People are often looking for titles, for recognition. Peter is making it clear what the qualifications of an Apostle are. They were there at the baptism of Jesus by John. They witnessed this event and followed Jesus from that point on. The Disciples knew them. This tells us there were more than 12 in the supporting cast of the ministry of Jesus. And they were witnesses of the resurrected Christ. Now, this opens the door to all kinds of debates. I’m not doing this for that

reason. I am just clarifying the position of those who were at the ascension and who would begin to establish the New Testament Church. There are people today that claim they are “Apostles” or “Prophets,” this doesn’t fit biblically. Peter laid out the criteria for an Apostle, no one today has witnessed the resurrected Christ that I know of. Allow me to share this with you (it comes from a reputable website). “It should be noted that the current teaching of the restoration of prophet and the office of apostle is far from what Scripture describes of the men who held the gift of prophet and the office of apostle. Those who teach the restoration of the office teach that the men who claim to be apostles and prophets should never be spoken against, should never be questioned, because the person who speaks against them is speaking against God. Yet, the Apostle Paul commended the people of Berea for checking what he said against the Word of God to make sure he spoke the truth (Acts 17:10-11). The Apostle Paul also stated to those in Galatia that if anyone, including himself, should teach another Gospel, that person should be “accursed” (Galatians 1:8-9). In everything, Paul kept pointing people to the Bible as the final authority. The men who claim to be apostles and prophets today make themselves the final authority, something Paul and the Twelve never did. It should also be noted that Scripture refers to these men in the past tense. 2 Peter 3:2 and also Jude 3-4, state that the people should not stray from the message the apostles gave (past tense).” (www.gotquestions.org).

- Pastor Chuck Swindoll says this about this moment ... “Like the eleven, the candidate must have been a follower of Jesus from the beginning and must have personally interacted with the resurrected Lord. Peter had good reasons for those two requirements. First, the primary means of teaching and leading the growing numbers of believers would be verbal and personal; the apostles would serve as the church’s source of theological truth for the next few decades (2 Pet. 3:2). Today, we have the New Testament to teach, reprove, correct, and train (2 Tim. 3:16), but the first-century believers depended upon the authority of the apostles. Therefore, these men had to have been personally trained by the Son of God—divine truth in human flesh.” (Swindoll’s Living Insights New Testament Commentary).

- There were 2 men who met these qualifications. And through prayer and petition one was selected – Matthias.

VI. Explanation

- First, these believers, these Christ-followers, were seeking the Lord's guidance and trusting Him to continue to work in their lives and through their witness. They trusted the Lord to direct their decisions, their choices. That's faith in action. If we are willing to live with obedience to God's instruction and principles, He will guide our steps. I think of the words of the Psalmist – *"Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."* (**Psalm 119:105 NLT**). It's God's way that keeps us on the right path.
- In a brief time, it was going to be necessary for 12 men to be leaders in witnessing to the 12 tribes of Israel during Pentecost. As we go through this history of the NAT church and what discipleship looks like we will see that the witness first is focused on the Jews (Acts 2-7). Remember Paul's words to the church in Rome – *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."* (Romans 1:16 NASB). There was a definite order to things at that time. With Saul's conversion in Acts 9 and the message being sent to the Gentiles in Acts 10-11 we can recognize the Jewish influence beginning to decline. By Acts 12, when James is martyred, he is not replaced as an Apostle. This indicates that the witness to the Jews only was complete and that the message of God's love and the Resurrected Jesus began to go out to everyone. The need had shifted to include everyone in the witness to God's grace and mercy.
- Now, you have been prepared to be part of the call to be witnesses to the remotest parts of the earth.

VII. Last Words

- Let me try to bring this together with a place that I have been pondering on and praying through lately. Please do not rush past the quiet power of Acts 1. Before the tongues of fire, before the bold preaching, before the thousands were added—there was waiting. There was prayer. There was unity. There was obedience. The Holy Spirit will work as well in the quiet as He does in the chaos

and confusion of the moment. In that upper room, God was not absent. He was preparing.

- Some of us today are in that same space. We're waiting for clarity, for healing, for breakthrough. But Acts 1 reminds us: the Spirit comes to those who wait well.
- **Isaiah 40** echoes this truth ... *"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power. Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, Yet those who wait for the Lord Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary. "(vs. 28-31 NASB).*
- The disciples waited—and they soared. Not because they were strong, but because they were surrendered. So today if you feel weary, uncertain, or stuck in the in-between—remember waiting is not wasted. It's where God renews. It's where He prepares. It's where He strengthens you to rise.
- Let's be people who wait well, pray deeply, and trust fully—because the Spirit is coming, and when He does, we will soar.
- Let's Pray
- Grace First, Grace Always