

## Obeying Jesus While Waiting

**Acts 1:9-26**<sup>9</sup> And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.<sup>10</sup> And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,<sup>11</sup> and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away.<sup>13</sup> And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, 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.<sup>14</sup> All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.<sup>15</sup> In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said,<sup>16</sup> “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.<sup>17</sup> For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.”<sup>18</sup> (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out.<sup>19</sup> And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)<sup>20</sup> “For it is written in the Book of Psalms, “ ‘May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it’; and “ ‘Let another take his office.’<sup>21</sup> So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,<sup>22</sup> beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.”<sup>23</sup> And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias.<sup>24</sup> And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen<sup>25</sup> to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.”<sup>26</sup> And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

### ❖ Intro:

- **So Excited to be Back...**
- **Remember Community Groups and Why we do them...**
  - So important to the growth of our church and you individually...
  - They are open to all people... Please get involved...
  - Help is fill the great commission: To teach... To Reach...
  - Keeps our people plugged in... Keeps new people from falling through the cracks...
  - **Please answer your questions so you can participate in the discussion...**
    - Then be ready to ask questions...
    - Leaders... be ready and prepared...

### ❖ Recap

- **Looked at the background to the book of Acts...**
  - We know we are going to see God moving greatly in church and many getting saved...
- **We asked if this is possible for us today...**
  - And we stated the difference b/w the early church and much of the church today...
  - **Is it Possible?**
    - ◆ **1) These guys left all to follow Jesus by making disciples**
      - Most of us have not
    - ◆ **2) They were very close to Jesus daily for three years**
      - Most of us do not spend quality time with Jesus daily
    - ◆ **3) They took what Jesus had given them and began to invest in others**
      - Few of us are trying to pour what God has given to us into others

◆ **4) They were extremely generous**

- Only 2%-4% of Christians actually tithe
- I am unsure of the percent for us but it is somewhere around 40%
- This tells me... that people have not followed Jesus.
- You can tell those who are of the faith because they are generous and they make disciples...

◆ **5) They prayed relentlessly**

- We pray when we want to

◆ **6) They relied on the Holy Spirit for everything**

- We hardly know who He is

➤ **I will need to spend a little time beginning to and continuing to clarify the coming of the Holy Spirit...**

- And I am excited that you are asking these questions...
- And that there is a dialogue b/w the pulpit and the pew...
- That is good

❖ **Clarity on Baptism and Filling of the Holy Spirit ( I know many of you are very interested)**

- I'm going to spend time on this often during our time in Acts...
  - We will look at it again next week when we get into Ch 2...
  - I want your confusion to go to way
  - I want you to have a good and clear understanding of this...
  - I am going to give you some extra resources to look into this for yourselves...
- **I also want you to know there are a few different views on this in Christianity...**
  - And many of these come from very godly men....
  - Some are very helpful... some views I think are harmful...

➤ **Where I am right now with this...**

- I am going to use two terms... Baptism and Filling with the Holy Spirit...
  - ◆ I want to make this simple...
  - ◆ But it is not necessarily as simple as I am going to make it
  - ◆ I do think there is room for both terms to be used in the Bible interchangeably at times...
  - ◆ For Example: What Paul is going to say in 1 Cor. 12 about being baptized into one body...
    - Speaking of Conversion
  - ◆ And then what happens in Acts 2 but is referred to by Jesus in Acts 1:5

➤ **The Reason for the confusion** is just that people think there are two different events...

- There is not... Not that I can tell... Simply put... We are initially baptized by the Spirit and then continue to walk in the power of that Spirit in different and various ways and in different degrees throughout the Christian Life...
- **Baptism of the Holy Spirit** – Refers to all the Holy Spirit does at the beginning of our new life in Jesus
  - When does this happen: When the person believes...
- **Filling with the Holy Spirit... (these so-called second experiences with the Holy Spirit)**
  - Summary of Wayne Grudem's thoughts on this: "Spirit *filling* is an element of **sanctification** and an empowerment for service. Being "filled with the Spirit" is a continuous pursuit that should be experienced repeatedly by believers who are maturing. We can expect the ongoing and revolutionizing work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The difference this makes is not a matter of reaching a higher plane, but an issue of maturity and progress in sanctification."
  - I believe it is the unique times that a person has such an experience with the Holy Spirit
  - That they are overwhelmed by Him...
  - And this experience leads to special times of empowering Christians for Witness...

- **Day of Pentecost was**
  - A Special day and a turning point in history that is unique in Christianity
  - A New empowering came on believers
  - The gospel came to all nations of people
  - Believers were empowered for Holy Living
- **Have you been Baptized with the Holy Spirit...?**
  - I want us to stop thinking of salvation as merely intellectual...
  - It is a knowledge of the truth... and that is for sure...
  - But it is also an experience with God...
  - True Repentance occurs... where we see conviction of sins...
  - God stirs peoples hearts to live Holy Lives
  - God fills people with a desire to be a witness of the gospel...
  - Paul tells us that the Holy Spirit is like our Down Payment...
    - A down payment is something substantial...
    - There should be something substantial occurring in the life of the believer...
- **What should your response be?**
  - Cause this is what matters right...
  - This is where the rubber meets the road doesn't it...
  - **If you have never received the Holy Spirit by being born again...**
    - You need to have faith... You need to trust in Jesus today
    - Repent of your sins and give your life to God
  - **If you have already received the Spirit... been baptized into the Spirit of God...**
    - Then you should pray for the filling of the Spirit

## ❖ Jesus Ascends

- <sup>9</sup> And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, <sup>11</sup> and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."
- **Just briefly because we have talked about this briefly...**
- **In the end... Jesus Ascends into heaven triumphantly...**
  - And His disciples stand and stare in Amazement...
  - And His angels tell His disciples... Why are you staring...
  - He will come back the same way...
    - Therefore this is why many people believe that when Jesus Returns...
    - He will return in the same way to the same place...
  - Zechariah 14:4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.
  - Matthew 24:30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.
- **So Jesus will return...**
  - And we need to be ready...
- **It is time to get to work...**
  - I believe there is a lesson there...
  - It is time for us to stop staring at God's Word and being fed...

- And Get to work...
- The time is now...

## ❖ The Disciples Together

- <sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. <sup>13</sup> And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, 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. <sup>14</sup> All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

### ➤ The Listened to Jesus...

- They returned to Jerusalem...

### ➤ In one Accord

- They were of one heart... of one mind...

### ➤ Devoting themselves to prayer

- They were now praying to Jesus...
- Previously they had not done this...
- But now He was gone...
- So this had to be odd for them...
- **I want you to see:**
  - They were devoted to prayer...
  - This is one of the ways they were able to accomplish so much
  - They were devoted to prayer...
  - Their hearts and minds were so focused on God...
- **Their Prayers**
  - Led to their obedience...
  - It led to their going out to tell the nations about what Jesus had done...
  - No longer were they afraid and locked in rooms...
- **The Holy Spirit was about to come upon them...**
  - Now... I do not believe their prayers caused the Holy Spirit to come that day...
  - They could have been sitting and twittling their thumbs
  - The Holy Spirit was a promised gift of God...
  - And they were waiting on Him...

### ➤ Together With the Women

- A Special and wonderful group of women...
- They probably held it all together... Cause that is how women are...
- They kept Peter from going out to preach with His hair all messed up
- No... seriously... these women were women
  - Of great faith... and service... and much prayer...
  - And they would be sharing Jesus with the nations just like the men...
- Let's not lessen the role of the women there in the early church...
- Let's not lessen it today in our church either...

### ➤ Mary (mentioned separately)

- Godly Woman
- She is praying to her Son
- No one was praying to Mary
- Never see this in the New Testament
- She is not to be prayed to

- She has nothing to do with our sins being forgiven
- She is never mentioned as an intermediary
- Praying to Mary is idolatry...
  - Why? Because we pray to God
  - And the root of praying to Mary comes all the way from ancient idol worship in Babylon
    - ◆ Where God confounded the languages

## ❖ Replacing Judas

- <sup>15</sup> In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, <sup>16</sup> “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. <sup>17</sup> For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” <sup>18</sup> (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. <sup>19</sup> And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) <sup>20</sup> “For it is written in the Book of Psalms, “ ‘May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it’; and “ ‘Let another take his office.’”
- Peter Stood up
- 120 persons
- Judas was numbered with them in ministry
- **Luke adds commentary**
  - We learn that the money Judas took to betray Jesus was used to buy a field
    - That came to be known as the field of blood...
  - And apparently it is where He hung himself after what He did...
  - None of these things were forced on Judas...
  - His greedy heart led him to betray Jesus...
  - And his unrepentant and prideful heart led him to take his own life...
- **Peter is going to say...**
  - That His spot needs to be replaced...
- **Judas:**
  - Judas led the authorities to Jesus...
  - Judas never truly believed in Jesus
  - **He knew He existed... He saw His miracles...**
    - Believed in his power...
    - But never followed Jesus...
    - Rather, he followed Himself...
  - **Judas Betrayal was a part of God’s plan...**
    - God’s plans can not be stopped...
    - God did not make Judas sin and betray Jesus
      - ◆ Yet he was still able to use an unregenerate man to accomplish His purposes...
      - ◆ As He also used Pilate, the Pharisees, the crowd and the Romans...
      - ◆ Who all took part in His death...
      - ◆ **Jesus said of Judas**
        - **John 17:12** <sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.
        - **John 6:64** <sup>64</sup> But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.)

- **In Daniel Nebuchadnezzar writes:**
  - Daniel 4:34-35 “For his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; <sup>35</sup> all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?”
- **Peter preaching**
  - Acts 2:23 <sup>23</sup> this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

➤ **Nothing got in the way of God’s plan...**

➤ **Peter... Inspired by the Holy Spirit... calls for Judas to be replaced...**

- And He uses a part of a Psalm that David wrote...
- And David wrote this and more than likely had no idea what He was writing about...
- And I believe the Holy Spirit led Peter to this verse...
  - So that He could understand what it meant...
  - Because up until then, no one except Jesus understood this verse out of David’s Psalm
- **I do think Jesus had already hinted toward some of this when He prayed in John 17....**
  - He said... so Scripture may be fulfilled...
- **So Peter quotes Psalm 69:25 and Psalm 109:8**
  - “ ‘May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it’; and “ ‘Let another take his office.’
- **So this is exactly what they are going to do...**
  - They are going to continue to be obedient to their Lord Jesus Christ...

❖ **The Choosing of Another**

- <sup>21</sup> So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup> beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us— one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” <sup>23</sup> And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. <sup>24</sup> And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup> to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” <sup>26</sup> And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

➤ **Jesus is Sovereign over choosing His followers**

- In John 15:16 Jesus said to His disciples, “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.”

➤ **What a Privilege it is to be called to be a follower of Jesus...**

- **Do not take this for granted**

➤ **Requirements for choosing a replacement**

- Accompanied them all the time the Jesus was with them...
- Starting from the Baptism of John
- Until the ascension
  - So you learn right there that Jesus had many followers not just the 12 disciples...
  - He had a big group of men and women that would follow Him...
  - If you remember at one point He even chose 70 to go out and preach the gospel
- **And the Reason for selection**
  - So He could become with the other disciples...
  - A witness of the resurrection of Jesus

- **They put two up for consideration**
  - Barsabbas or Justus
  - Matthias...
  - Not much of these guys is spoken of before hand or afterward, except as part of the group
- **And they prayed... They prayed for God to show them...**
  - You know the hearts of all
  - Show us which of these two you have chosen
- **They cast lots to find out what God wanted...**
  - A really interesting way of choosing back in those days...
  - **If you have ever read the old testament you see that God would show people His will**
    - In various ways..
    - Some by speaking himself..
    - Some by speaking through angels
    - And sometimes by speaking through prophets
    - And sometimes by the casting of lots... or the drawing of straws...
  - **And we believe God is in control... So He can control every little detail**
    - when we are faithful And we trust in Him...
    - **Prov 16:33<sup>33</sup> The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.**
  - **And Matthias is chosen...**
    -
  - **Now... We never see this again**
    - As a matter of fact it seems to be the end of the old testament way of things
    - After this the Holy Spirit comes in great power...
    - And it is the Holy Spirit who will empower and lead and convict and comfort the church...
  - **So, no... I do not think it is how we should do things today...**
    - Not much time after this when there is need of deacons to be chosen for the work of the church
    - We see in **Acts 6:3<sup>3</sup> Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.**
      - ◆ They then laid hands on them and prayed for them...
- **Application: Don't Take for granted your Calling by Jesus...**
  - If you do... you may find yourself to be like Judas...
  - And not like the disciples who took part in the work of the ministry

#### ❖ Invitation

- Do you have the Holy Spirit?
- Have you taken for granted your calling by God?
- What are you doing with your call to be a witness?