

How To Patiently Wait

Sermon Based Life Group Notes for the week of April 18

Getting To Know Each Other

- Do you consider yourself a patient person? Why or why not?
- What are the triggers that tend to make you impatient? Give an example.

Into the Bible

Read Acts 1:1-11

- How long did Jesus appear to the disciples before he ascended to heaven? Verse 3
- What did Jesus promise the disciples? Verse 5
- Since Jesus rose from the dead and the disciples were to be empowered, what did they expect Jesus to do next? Verse 6
- What did Jesus say that clarified the disciples' new role? Verse 8
- What did Jesus mean that they should go to Jerusalem, then to Judea and Samaria, and then to the ends of the earth?
- Why were the disciples standing there and looking into the clouds after Jesus ascended? How did the angels get their focus back on their mission?
- Application: Are you ever unsure as to what God wants you to do with your life?
- Application: Where is your Jerusalem that Jesus is calling you to go? How are you being a witness to them? What is your Judea? Your Samaria?

Read Acts 1:12-26

- After Jesus ascended to heaven, what did the disciples do? Verses 12-14
- Who joined the disciples in this prayer meeting?
- Read Philippians 4:6. What are the four steps of prayer?
- When you pray, do you use each of these steps?
- Have you ever experienced the peace that passes all understanding? Philippians 4:7
- How does Psalm 119:105 teach us to take steps of faith?
- Which disciple took the first step of faith and spoke out about Judas?
- How many other believers attended that meeting?
- The account of Judas' death in Acts is different than Matthew's version (Matthew 27:3-5). Is this a contradiction of scripture or can this problem be easily resolved?
- Peter and Judas both denied and betrayed Jesus. How did Peter end up being forgiven (see John 21:15-17) while Judas committed suicide because of his shame and guilt?
- In verse 21, what does Peter say must happen next?
- Does their method of discerning God's will in this matter puzzle you? See verse 24-26. Why, in their minds, was casting lots the right method?
- Application: Share an example of a time when you prayed for God to quickly act, but he answered you in a completely different way, with a different timeline. Could you see God's wisdom in his answer of that prayer, or is it still confusing?
- Application: Share a time when you boldly took a first step of faith? Did it lead you closer to God's will or was it a dead end?