

Waiting on the Lord (Acts 1:12-26)**Café Church - 17-Sept-17****To begin the Service: Psalm 130**

¹Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD;

² Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive
to my cry for mercy.

³If you, LORD, kept a record of sins,
Lord, who could stand?

⁴But with you there is forgiveness,
so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

⁵**I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits,
and in his word I put my hope.**

⁶**I wait for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.**

⁷Israel, put your hope in the LORD,
for with the LORD is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.

⁸He himself will redeem Israel
from all their sins.

There are Bibles on the table in front of you

And a sermon outline

And some questions

Let me pray first...

Context

[PowerPoint 1-Context]

Last time the risen Jesus appeared to his disciples
 And He promised them some help after His departure
 See Acts 1:4-5

"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Then Jesus ascended to the Father's right hand and intercedes for us
 They had to wait for the Father to send the gift of the Holy Spirit

Intro (Waiting?)

[Powerpoint 2-Waiting?]

How good are we at waiting?
 [Open for Answers]

If the Lord wants us to learn patience - we will have to have a waiting period
 If the Lord wants us to trust Him and trust His promises - we will have to have a waiting period

What do we do whilst we are waiting?

Actions of the Apostles (vv12-26)

Let's see what the apostles do?

[Powerpoint 3a-Obedience]

See v12 - they were **obedient** - they were told not to leave Jerusalem
 And so they return from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem as Jesus said and wait for the Spirit
 They walk - a distance of a *Sabbath walk* - remember walking would be considered work - but they were allowed to walk short distances - so a Sabbath walk was 1km
 Then they go back to the room they were staying
 There are *11 apostles* - because Judas has betrayed Jesus and so he is missing
 And they are joined by "the women" - the women at the cross and who saw where Jesus was buried - plus Jesus' mother - *Mary* - and the his *brothers*: James, Joseph, Simon and Judas (see Matt 13:55)
 And look what they do whilst they are waiting - see v14

They joined together **constantly in prayer!**

[Powerpoint 3b-Prayer]

Now there's a novel idea - praying whilst we are waiting

We don't know what they prayed -

But we have a clue - they are waiting for the Spirit

So they pray in preparation for the coming of the Spirit

And we know from the Lord 's Prayer

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven

That the will of the Lord is paramount in any prayer

Then Peter - head of the apostles - is the spokesperson

And Peter addresses a group that us 120 in number - a small group of Christians

And the next thing they do whilst they are waiting on the Lord

Is a bit of **scriptural reflection**

[Powerpoint 3c-Scriptural Reflection]

They refer to the OT scriptures

And they find a prophecy from King David about Judas

Remember Judas is the one who betrayed Jesus

Luke describes Judas' betrayal - and that he bought a field with the money

And Luke describes how he died (like a Dr would) - his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out -

Therefore field called "Field of Blood"

Matthew's account slightly different (Matt 27:3-10)

How to explain difference

Death by hanging - later rope/branch snapped and body fell forward into field

Field bought by officials in Matthew but by Judas in Acts - both mean money was

Judas' money - blood money!

So not contradictory

Back to OT prophecy

See Psalm 69:25

May his place be deserted;
 let there be no one to dwell in it,
 The field becomes a burial plot and no-one lives there

And second
 Psalm 109:8
 May his days be few;
 may another take his place of leadership.

So through prayer and scriptural reflection
 Peter and the apostles take decisive action to replace Judas

And they decide upon 2 men who have been with Jesus from the time of Jesus' baptism (v22) until His ascension (v22)
 Why that period?
 Basically it means they have witnessed ALL of Jesus' earthly ministry
 So there is a choice between Barsabbas and Matthias

How will they decide?

Again this is good lesson for us

[Powerpoint 3d-Decisions]

They commit the decision to the Lord in prayer

See verse 24

Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs."

Notice their prayer

They acknowledge God's sovereignty - He knows everything - even what people think deep down inside

And they also pray for God's leading and guidance - shows us Lord - show us!

We can learn from that

Lots not used after Spirit comes in chapter 2

Lots used in OT - Lev 16:8; Josh 18:6; 19:51

But before we get carried away and say this is gambling

See Prov 16:33 and 18:18

The lot is cast into the lap,
but its every decision is from the LORD.

Casting the lot settles disputes
and keeps strong opponents apart.

Urim and thummim - in Aaron's breast piece (Exodus 28:30) - used for decisions from God (Num 27:21; 1 Sam 14:41; Ez 2:63; Neh 7:65)

Lessons

1. We need to be **Obedient** as individuals and church members waiting for the Spirit and waiting on the Lord and trusting Him and His Word/Promises
2. The community is **unified in praying and referring to Scripture** as to what actions we take. How is our prayer times? - individually and corporately - how would we rate them. What shall we do about it? Are we referring to Scripture or just trusting our gut?
3. Our **choices and decisions** should be committed to prayer and the Lord's leading - e.g. making decisions on elders, ministers, people in ministry - or making any personal decision - prayer and wait on the Lord's guidance?