

**Date:** October 4, 2026

**Title:** The Waiting Room

**Passage:** Acts 1:12-26

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Summary:

What do we do while we are in the waiting room?

I. Pray and wait on the Lord (v.12-14)

II. Obey the Word of the Lord (v.15-22)

III. Trust the will of the Lord (v. 21-26)

Key Truths:

- Promises fuel prayer. We ought to pray through God's Word in our prayers.
- To disbelief or disobey God is to believe His Word is not necessary. But as believers and disciples of Christ, we must believe and obey all of God's Word.
- The Holy Spirit ought to rule your thoughts and affections. God inside you can make you more than a conqueror. The Spirit of God inside you can give you wisdom and contentment through your life.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- What's a takeaway from the sermon you can apply to your life?
- Which Biblical promise have you last prayed through or meditated on lately?
- Why is prayer important in our decision-making process?
- How can you improve your prayer life?
- What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have heard or seen?

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**Context of Passage:**

The Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts are written by the same author and are to be read together.

- Luke is viewed as volume 1
- Acts is viewed as volume 2

Luke 24:45

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,

- What did he read or point to?

Luke 24:44

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”

- How all of Scripture pointed to Jesus.

#### Luke 24:50

And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them.

- with his nailed scarred hands, Jesus blessed His disciples.

#### Luke 24:51-52

While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,

- The disciples were left worshipping God.

#### Acts 1:6

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”

- One of the key questions by the disciples was when God's kingdom would be established.
- Jesus told them to stay in Jerusalem and wait.

### **Overview**

What do we do while we are in the waiting room?

I. Pray and wait on the Lord (v.12-14)

II. Obey the Word of the Lord (v.15-22)

III. Trust the will of the Lord (v. 21-26)

### **Passage:**

#### Acts 1:12–26 (LSB)

“Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. And 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. These all with one accord were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and His brothers.

And in those days, Peter stood up in the midst of the brothers (a crowd of about 120 persons was there together), and said, “Men, brothers, 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 unrighteousness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out. 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 RESIDENCE 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.” And 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 take the place of this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.”

## EXPOSITION

### I. PRAY AND WAIT ON THE LORD

#### **Acts 1:12**

***“Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away.”***

*mount called Olivet*

#### **Zechariah 14:4**

On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward.

- Old Testament prophecy of what the Messiah will do upon His second return.

#### **Acts 1:13**

***“And 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.”***

*they went up to the upper room where they were staying*

- Perhaps the same Upper Room of the Last Supper with Jesus.
  - See John 14-17
- Perhaps also where the resurrected Jesus re-appeared before the disciples when they had locked themselves securely within.
- Understandable they would return back to the place of familiarity.

*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.”*

- The disciples of 11 gathered together.
- At this moment, their mission was to wait as Jesus instructed.
  - What did they do?
    - They prayed!

#### **Acts 1:14**

***“These all with one accord were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and His brothers.”***

- This is the first time recorded that the disciples prayed.
- They had previously not prayed but now this was the first thing to do.
- Question: Does this reflect you?

#### **Luke 11:13**

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

- Jesus invited them to pray.
  - But there is no record of them doing so.

#### **Acts 1:4-5**

And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

Why will the Holy Spirit be given?

- Disciples prayed for it?
- God the Father promised it?
  - Yes to both!

#### **John 14:16**

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,

Question: What is the last promise in Scripture you actually believed?

- This reflects our faith in prayer.
- Promises fuel prayer.

Question: Do we pray like the truth that the Holy Spirit is within us?

- Do you want the Holy Spirit ruling your thoughts and affections?
- Do you want the living God inside you making you more than a conqueror?
- Do you want the Spirit of God to give you wisdom and contentment through your life?
  - This is how you will be sanctified in Christ.
  - This is how the world will know God exists.

*along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and His brothers.”*

- The disciples are not praying "to Mary". But Mary is praying with them. (Contrary to Roman Catholic Church)
- They were praying to their God and their Savior.
  - They are praying God's promises (like you and I)

## **II. OBEY THE WORD OF THE LORD (v.15-22)**

- Prayer breeds Bible.

### **Acts 1:15**

***“And in those days, Peter stood up in the midst of the brothers (a crowd of about 120 persons was there together), and said,”***

- The group of people were praying.
- Then suddenly Peter stood up to speak clearly God's truth:

### **Acts 1:16-17**

***“Men, brothers, 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.”***

- Peter states clearly what Scripture says.
- What is on Peter's mind?
  - Betrayal.

### **Acts 1:18-19**

***“(Now this man acquired a field with the price of his unrighteousness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out. 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.)”***

- Peter was concerned about how Judas' betrayal would be understood by others.

### **Acts 1:20**

***““For it is written in the book of Psalms, ‘LET HIS RESIDENCE BE MADE DESOLATE, AND LET NO ONE DWELL IN IT’; and, ‘LET ANOTHER MAN TAKE HIS OFFICE.’”***

- Quoting Psalm 69 and 109

### **2 Peter 1:21**

For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

- The words in Psalm are written by the Holy Spirit.

### **2 Samuel 16:23**

Now in those days the counsel that Ahithophel gave was as if one consulted the word of God; so was all the counsel of Ahithophel esteemed, both by David and by Absalom.

- At one point, King David revered this man's counsel greatly.
  - Later, Ahithophel betrayed David.
- Ahithophel had a son named Eliam who had a daughter named Bathsheba.
- Ahithophel later hanged himself.
  - He was "Judas" before Judas Iscariot.
    - But Judas Iscariot was so much worse as he betrayed

## **III. TRUST THE WILL OF THE LORD. (v. 21-26)**

### **Acts 1:21-22**

***““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.””***

*Therefore it is necessary*

- Do you believe all of Scripture as necessary and inerrant and completely sufficient?
  - To disbelief or disobey God is to believe His Word is not necessary.
    - As believers and disciples of Christ, we must believe and obey all of God's Word.

*that of the men who have accompanied us all the time ...must become a witness with us of His resurrection.””*

- The crowd surrounding Jesus during his ministry was more than just the 12 disciples.

Clarification:

- There are no apostles of Jesus Christ today. (No one has since been there throughout all of Jesus Christ's earthly ministry).
  - The foundation were the apostles but they appointed shepherds and deacons to carry on the work in the church.

### **Acts 1:23**

***“And they put forward two men, Joseph called Barsabbas (who was also called Justus), and Matthias.”***

- Only two men were identified to have been throughout Jesus' ministry.
  - They were not otherwise described as to their talents or gifts.
    - Only key qualification?
      - they knew Jesus.
- Today, the only leaders we want in the church is those who know Christ.
  - Not about their particular skills or talents or status.

### **Acts 1:24-25**

***“And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two You have chosen to take the place of this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.””***

- They prayed first, then made decision
  - Not vice-versa. They don't make a decision and ask God to bless them.

*You, Lord,*

- They prayed to God directly as if He was in the room.
  - Likewise, we should pray similarly.

*show which one of these two You have chosen to take the place of this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.””*

- Why need someone to take Judas' position?

- There are 12 tribes of Israel.

Luke 22:28-30

“You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

Acts 12:2

He killed James the brother of John with the sword,

- James is killed but not replaced as an apostle.

**Acts 1:26**

***“And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.”***

Proverbs 16:33

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

- God's sovereignty is over all.

**Summary**

Pray and wait on the Lord.

Obey the Word of the Lord.

Trust the will of the Lord.

And rejoice that the lot of His love has fallen on you.