

Connect Lesson April 30-May 1, 2022
Pastor Paul Daugherty
“Acts 1”

Message Recap

- I. After the resurrection, Jesus was with His disciples for 40 days, and was taken up into the clouds in front of them. Just as Jesus ascended into the clouds, we are called to let our perspective be Heavenly. When we see from a Heavenly perspective, we begin to understand God’s timing and His plan. Before Jesus ascended, He reminded the disciples that the Holy Spirit would come and baptize them soon. But first, they needed to wait AND pray. So often, when waiting on God’s promise to come to pass in our lives, we are passive in our waiting. Passive waiting equals nothing more than wishing. God asks us to actively wait, which means praying, believing, and preparing for what He is going to do. Even in our earthly situation, when we actively wait on God, we can get a Heavenly revelation.

- II. **A Heavenly Burden**
Often times, we carry a burden that we were not meant to carry. This burden is the one of outcomes. We carry the weight of trying to make sure an outcome happens when in reality, only God can do that. Whether we pray, work, confess the Word - we cannot force things to happen spiritually. 1 Corinthians 3:6-9 says, “ I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.” The burden is light and the yoke is easy only when we focus on obedience over outcomes.

Read and Discuss

Read Revelation 4:1

1. Is there a situation in your life where you need heavenly perspective?
2. What are some ways we can gain God’s view of a situation?

Read 1 Corinthians 3:6-9

1. Have you struggled with trying to control outcomes only God can control? How did that turn out?
2. What is our part to play in growing the Kingdom? What is the specific role God has called you to in this season?

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 3:6-9

6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. 7 So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 8 The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. 9 For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

Acts 1

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with[a] water, but in a few days you will be baptized with[b] the Holy Spirit."

6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas

12 Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk[c] from the city. 13 When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. 14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

15 In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) 16 and said, "Brothers and sisters,[d] the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy

Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus. 17 He was one of our number and shared in our ministry.”

18 (With the payment he received for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. 19 Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

20 “For,” said Peter, “it is written in the Book of Psalms:

““May his place be deserted;
let there be no one to dwell in it,’[e]

and,

““May another take his place of leadership.’[f]

21 Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, 22 beginning from John’s baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.”

23 So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. 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.” 26 Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

Revelation 4:1

After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”