



## **Jason Smith - A Journey from the Resurrection**

### **Part 4: Waiting for the Promise**

Waiting is never wasted in God's kingdom. After Jesus ascended into heaven, the disciples found themselves in a period of anticipation, knowing the Holy Spirit had been promised but not yet given.

Instead of acting out of impatience or fear, they committed themselves to prayer and preparation.

As we wait on God, we learn to trust His timing, rely on His guidance, and prepare ourselves to step into His promises with confidence.

**Scripture:** Acts 1:12-26

### **Introduction**

We live in a world that doesn't like to wait... Which is kind of the understatement of the year.

We're surrounded by instant gratification—fast food, same-day shipping, and answers at our fingertips. Waiting feels like a waste of time.

It's uncomfortable, frustrating, and sometimes even painful.

When life puts us on pause, we often find ourselves anxious, restless, or discouraged—wondering why God hasn't moved yet or why our prayers seem to linger unanswered.

But what if waiting isn't just about **passing time** but about **preparing us** for something greater?

What if the season of waiting is not wasted, but purposeful—

God using it to shape us, grow us, and ready us for what's next?

Think about the disciples after Jesus ascended into heaven. They had just witnessed something **extraordinary**—Jesus rising into the sky, returning to the Father, and leaving them with the promise of the Holy Spirit.

But there was **no timeline** given, no clear indication of how long they would have to wait. All they knew was Jesus said to **stay in Jerusalem and wait for the promise** (Acts 1:4).

Imagine the tension they must have felt. They were eager, uncertain, and likely feeling the **weight of responsibility** that Jesus had just placed on them—to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth.

But instead of giving in to fear or impulsively taking matters into their own hands, they did something truly remarkable: they gathered together, **prayed**, and **waited** with **expectation**.

They didn't view waiting as a waste of time. They treated it as a time of preparation and seeking God.

And in that space between the promise given and the promise fulfilled, God was **doing something profound** in their hearts—unifying them, strengthening their faith, and readying them to receive the power that would change everything.

Maybe you find yourself in a similar place today—waiting on God to move, waiting on answers, waiting for a breakthrough.

It can feel like nothing is happening, but I want to encourage you: **God is at work in your waiting.**

He is not idle or indifferent to your prayers. In fact, He is using this season to deepen your faith, sharpen your trust, and align your heart with His purposes.

Today, we're going to explore how God uses waiting to **prepare us for His promises.**

We'll look at how the disciples responded to their season of anticipation and how their example challenges us to embrace waiting with faith, not frustration. Because in God's kingdom, waiting is never wasted.

**Read Acts 1:12-26**

**<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>[a]</sup>

<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<sup>[b]</sup> 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.

### **Waiting is an Act of Faith**

*“They all joined together constantly in prayer...”* -Acts 1:14

Waiting is hard because it feels unproductive. We live in a culture that values **immediate results**, and when we don’t see progress, it’s easy to assume nothing is happening.

But in God’s kingdom, **waiting is active and intentional**. The disciples didn’t just sit around doing nothing after Jesus ascended.

**They gathered together, prayed constantly, and prepared their hearts** for what was to come.

They could have easily scattered, filled the time with busywork, or tried to make things happen in their own strength. Instead, they chose to wait on God's timing and seek His presence.

They didn't let uncertainty drive them to fear or frustration; instead, it drove them to prayer and unity.

This kind of waiting is an **act of faith**—choosing to trust that God is at work even when you don't see it. It's like the farmer who plants seeds in the ground. **(SHOW FARMER PIC)**

He doesn't walk away just because he doesn't see sprouts immediately.

Instead, he waters the soil, pulls the weeds, and nurtures what he's planted—trusting that growth is happening beneath the surface. The Apostle Paul wrote,

***"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."*** - Galatians 6:9

Similarly, **spiritual growth is a gradual process that takes time**, and waiting is often an integral part of it.

God uses seasons of waiting to strengthen our faith, develop our character, and align our hearts with His purposes. We see this pattern throughout Scripture. Think of:

- **Abraham**, who waited decades for the promised son, learning that **God's promises never fail** (Hebrews 6:15).

- **Joseph**, who waited in prison while God shaped him into a leader (Genesis 50:20).
- **David**, who was anointed as king but spent years waiting to take the throne, learning to **trust God's timing** (Psalm 27:14).

In every case, God wasn't wasting time—He was **preparing His people** for what was next.

The same is true for us. Seasons of waiting are opportunities to seek God with all our hearts, to grow in faith, and to trust that He is at work even when we don't see it.

**This has proven powerful in my own life.**

### **Waiting Prepares Us for What's Next**

***“Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen.”*** Acts 1:24

Waiting isn't just about passing time—it's about active preparation for what God has in store. The disciples understood this.

As they waited for the promised Holy Spirit, they didn't just sit idly by. They took a **practical step of preparation** by selecting Matthias to replace Judas.

This was not just a logistical move; it was a demonstration of their commitment to God's ongoing work.

They engaged in earnest prayer, seeking divine guidance, and they acted in faith by filling the vacancy that Judas had left.

Notice how intentional they were about it. They didn't rush the decision or make it based on personal preference. Instead, they sought God's will, praying,

***“Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen.”*** - Acts 1:24

This moment teaches us that waiting can be a time of **preparation and readiness.**

They knew that to step into the mission Jesus gave them, they needed to be fully equipped and unified.

By restoring the twelve, they were positioning themselves for what God was about to do.

When we're in a season of waiting, it's tempting to focus on the delay and wonder, *"How long must I wait?"*

But a better question is, **"What is God teaching me in this season?"** Or even, "How can I better prepare myself for the future while I wait?"

- **Is He building endurance and patience? (James 1:3-4)**
- **Is He calling you to deepen your faith? (Romans 5:3-5)**
- **Is He giving you time to heal and restore before moving forward? (Isaiah 40:31)**



There are endless opportunities and reasons for the waiting - But through it all we know that God has a plan and that His timing is perfect.

## **God's Timing is Always Perfect**

***“...until the day He was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles He had chosen.”*** -Acts 1:2

As we've been alluding to, one of the most challenging aspects of faith is **trusting God's timing**.

After Jesus ascended, the disciples were left with His instructions but without the promised Holy Spirit—at least not yet.

Jesus had given them everything they needed to know, but the power to act on it had not yet arrived.

This teaches us an essential truth: **God's promises come in His perfect timing, not ours.**

Imagine if the disciples had rushed ahead without waiting for the Holy Spirit.

They could have tried to preach the gospel in their own strength, but it would have been empty and powerless.

Waiting on God was a powerful act of **obedience and trust**.

How often do we try to force God's hand instead of trusting His plan? It's easy to move ahead of God, convinced that our way is quicker or better.

But in Scripture, we repeatedly see that God's timing is not just good—it's perfect.

### **Biblical Examples of God's Perfect Timing**

- **Abraham and Sarah:** God promised them a son, but years went by without a child. Impatient, they took matters into their own hands, resulting in Ishmael (Genesis 16). But when God's perfect timing arrived, Isaac was born—showing that God's promises cannot be rushed (Genesis 21:1-2).
- **David's Anointing and Kingship:** David was anointed as king when he was just a boy, but it took years—and many trials—before he actually took the throne. During that waiting period, God was shaping his character, preparing him to be a leader after His own heart (1 Samuel 16:13, 2 Samuel 5:4).
- **Jesus' Ministry:** Even Jesus waited for the right time to reveal Himself. At the wedding in Cana, He said to His mother, ***"My hour has not yet come"*** (John 2:4). Later, He waited until Lazarus had died to visit Bethany, so that God's glory would be displayed through the resurrection (John 11:4-6).

Each of these stories shows us that waiting is not a waste of time—it's a time when God is aligning circumstances, shaping our hearts, and preparing us for what's next.

Forcing God's timing never ends well—it leads to pain and regret—but trusting His timing always brings about His greater purpose.

And even though many of us would agree that this is all true, we still struggle.

Our struggle often comes from impatience and a desire for control. We want to see results now, but God knows that character takes time to develop.

We want immediate solutions, but God is working on eternal transformations. He is working an eternal timetable with the entire cosmos in mind.

## **Conclusion**

Waiting is never wasted in God's kingdom. Through the disciples' example, we see that waiting on God is never pointless—it is purposeful.

It's a time when God strengthens our faith, prepares our hearts, and shapes our character for what's next.

Think about what the disciples did during their waiting season. They didn't scatter or give up; they prayed constantly and prepared for the fulfillment of Jesus' promise.

They didn't let fear or frustration dictate their actions. Instead, they sought God's guidance and positioned themselves to receive what He had promised.

In our own lives, waiting often feels like being stuck. But when we look through the lens of faith, we realize that waiting is part of God's process of equipping us.

Maybe you are in a season where you're waiting for God to move, to answer a prayer, or to open a door. Remember that while you wait, God is working.

He's not just preparing the blessing for you—He's preparing you for the blessing.

Today, I want to challenge you to see waiting differently.

Instead of viewing it as a frustrating delay, consider it an invitation to deeper faith and greater readiness.

Ask God to teach you what He wants you to learn in this season. Seek His guidance, just as the disciples did. Stay faithful in prayer, just as they did.

And trust that He is working behind the scenes, even when you can't see it.

And just as the disciples waited for the Holy Spirit with expectancy and readiness, we, too, are called to wait with hope. Because as we'll see next week, their waiting was not in vain.

On Pentecost, the Spirit was poured out, fulfilling the promise and launching the mission of the Church. The season of waiting became a season of power.

As we anticipate Pentecost next week, let's hold on to that same sense of expectancy. Let's believe that God's timing is perfect and that His Spirit moves when the time is right.

Let's pray together.