

The STORY - Week Twenty-Eight

April 23, 2017

Synergy With the Savior

ACTS 1:3-14

Two crucial activities describe the apostles while anticipating the Holy Spirit's arrival. They remained together and they prayed.

Our waiting and praying indicate the gift of the Spirit is never an assured possession of the church. It is a gift, a gift which must be constantly sought anew in prayer. Until those who know the facts also experience the power, they do well to wait in Jerusalem and pray — William H. Willimon (1988).

So this coming reign of God will be characterized by love and its cousins, compassion and justice, not by power and privilege, wealth of might. Doing God's will is what Jesus called them to do; that is precisely what they signed up for. They must do the work of the One Who called and sent them; centered in God and God's will; they must listen for the voice of love and wrap themselves in its empowering cloak - Randle R. Mixon (2010).

Jesus gives the apostles an agenda: Jerusalem first, then Judaea (the surrounding countryside), then Samaria (the hated semi-foreigners living next door) and to the ends of the earth. Like the child who stops asking questions because suddenly the journey itself has become so interesting, we find there's so much to see that we won't worry so much about the 'when'. Jesus is appointed and enthroned as the world's true king. One day that kingdom will come, fully and finally. In the meantime, we have a job to do - N. T. Wright (2008).

Next week: Paul's Mission

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THE STORY

FINDING YOUR STORY IN GOD'S STORY

How do you see God using us in these places:

Jerusalem or your home town, neighborhood

Samaria or the tough places you would rather avoid

Ends of the earth, or the nation and world

Seeds are small.

What small seed of Jesus would He have us plant?

Seeds die to allow a new plant to sprout.

Is there something in us preventing new life?

Where might we plant love, grace and Jesus' Story?

With whom can we share a meal?

Who needs to hear our story?

Who needs basic resources/help from us?

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