

Sermon Study Guide – May 21st, 2023

Today's Focus: "God's Waiting Game"

1) Thoughts to get you started...

- ◆ Today we are celebrating Christ's Ascension, where he returned to heaven and left us waiting here on this earth.
- ◆ What are we supposed to do while we play "the waiting game"? Why doesn't God just call us home to heaven the moment we come to faith? Why did Jesus leave us here?

2) Today's Message: Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴ He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

3) What does God want you to know today?

Throughout the sermon, consider...

How does today's sermon show you your sin? (i.e. What's the law?)

How does today's sermon show your Savior? (i.e. What's the gospel?)

Law:

Gospel:



Answer the following questions as you follow the sermon...

1. How did the Disciples react when God told them to “wait”? How did they react earlier when Jesus talked about leaving (at his death)?
2. What made the difference for how well they could now “wait”?
3. Because Jesus lives, of what two things can we be certain?
4. How does Baptism help us with “God’s waiting game”?
5. Waiting isn’t so bad when you have something to occupy your time... what has God given us to do? (i.e., Why are we still here?)
6. How does the “second half” of the church year help with our topic?
7. Is waiting for God to take us home a matter of “good” or “bad”?

4) Taking it Home:

Read these sections of the Bible to reinforce this week’s truths:

Monday: *review* Acts 1:12-26, Psalm 124

Thursday: John 14-15

Tuesday: *review* 1 Pet. 3:13-22

Friday: John 16-17

Wednesday: Philippians 1

Saturday: *review* Luke 24:44-53