

But waiting allows us to contemplate God's direction for our lives. "Waiting for the Lord" is not a passive time in the life of a Christ-follower. It is a time to consider our knowledge of scripture, to meditate on its meaning for the church throughout its 20 centuries of existence and for us as individuals. To wait for the Lord means being in prayer, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit. What does "waiting" mean to you? Are you in a period of waiting now? Prayerfully consider what waiting means for you and write your thoughts here.

Thursday, May 20

Read Acts 1:1-14. Pay close attention to verse 8 in which Jesus shares with his disciples, "you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Witnessing is defined as sharing what we know. The message is really simple: "My life was one way and now because of my faith in Jesus the Christ, it is another way." Verse 8 tells us the scope of witnessing; from our immediate area (Jerusalem) to the ends of the earth. So whatever good news you have to share should be met with the question "With whom should we share our good news?" The answer is "to the ends of the earth!" Here's a bit of a twist: Samaria represents people who are our enemies – people not like us. So who needs to hear the Good News? The answer is everyone, including our enemies. Consider your witness and consider now with whom can share that witness. Write your ideas here asking for God to open your heart "to the ends of the earth."

Friday, May 21

The "Chapel of the Ascension" was once open to the sky above it with no roof. Today the domed roof makes it quite dark inside and you are nearly compelled to go outside – where Jesus needs us to continue his mission. This week we've talked about the essential instructions of Jesus to be in the word, to wait on the power of God's Spirit and to witness to the ends of the earth. But more than telling the Good News we need to work. We need to continue the healing, loving, life-giving tasks that Jesus began. What is your work within Jesus' mission? Write your ideas here.

Message Notes – May 16, 2021

Buckle Up and Listen for Instructions*

- I. Jesus, before disappearing into heaven, gave the disciples final _____.
 - A. On top of the Mount of _____ in Jerusalem is a very small Crusader-era church called "The Chapel of the Ascension."
 - B. Unlike other popular and crowded churches that mark the site of Jesus' crucifixion and burial, this little chapel sees _____ visitors.
 - C. What's inside is a small area that, according to tradition, reveals the _____ of Jesus.
 - D. The chapel is often not on the _____ route for visitors to the Holy Land today.
- II. Maybe that's because the _____ of Jesus has been a downplayed story in many Christian churches.
 - A. But the Ascension is vitally _____ to our understanding of the story of Jesus and the church.
 - B. Jesus commissioned his disciples to continue his _____.
 - C. That commissioning is for _____ twenty centuries later.
- III. Three components of the transformational movement that Jesus launched into the world that we, as _____ of Christ, are to continue.
 - A. Word, _____ and witness are the foundational principles of Jesus' final instruction to his disciple both two thousand years ago and today!
 - B. First, let's consider God's Word – our _____.

*Luke 24:44-53 and Acts 1:1-14

- C. The second task that Jesus asked us to _____ is waiting.
- D. Word and waiting lead us to the third _____ of witnessing.

IV. Jesus implies that his disciples will not only be his heralds and witnesses, but they will also continue his _____.

- A. I love how the passage in Acts ends with Jesus ascending in a “cloud,” leaving the disciples standing there _____ at the amazing sight (v. 9).
- B. In Scripture, a “cloud” is very often associated with the presence of _____.
- C. Luke wants us to be reminded of that reality and that Jesus has not gone far and is still present in the _____.
- D. May we be disciples of Jesus who no longer keep staring at the sky but keep looking out into the _____ and seeing every day as an opportunity to be a herald of the king in what we say and do.
- E. Yes, Jesus will come back, but for now Jesus is still at work, and he chooses to do that work in _____ and through _____!

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, May 17

The message began with an illustration of when Flight Attendants give you important emergency information before the flight

begins. A great number of people, especially if they fly often, tune out these announcements. Still the announcements are important, possibly life-saving. Are there times when you “tune out” words of instruction or warnings? These warnings don’t have to be verbal; you can ignore a warning light on your car or truck as easily as tune out a flight attendant. You can ignore your doctor’s advice as well as the counsel of a lawyer, mechanic, dentist, pastor, etc. Think about your attentiveness to others and write your reflections here.

Tuesday, May 18

Read Acts 1:1-14. As mentioned in the message the Chapel of the Ascension is not a popular site in the Holy Land. Besides being small, the story of the ascension is not well-celebrated in a number of churches. But the words Jesus shares with the disciples as he departs into a cloud are important for us as witnesses to the resurrection life that Jesus proclaims and gives to us. The first foundational principle Jesus shared was scripture itself – the Bible. God’s Word provides the undergirding support for the Christian faith. To become familiar with scripture is to become familiar with Jesus our Lord as well as God our Creator and the Holy Spirit who continues to work in and through us. How familiar are you with scriptures? What could you do to learn more about our holy writing that are so critical to our faith? Write your ideas here praying for God’s encouragement.

Wednesday, May 19

Read Acts 1:1-14. The second principle that Jesus offers his disciples, both while he was on earth and to us two thousand years later, is waiting. We are called to wait for the Lord’s direction and power. This is difficult because humans are often not good at waiting. We are part of an immediate gratification, microwave, have it now, pay later generation.