

## In the Meantime

Message 4 of 4 in the series: "Eagerly Expecting"

Expectation = a strong belief that something will happen or be the case in the future

"In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit. During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God. Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, 'Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, 'Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?' He replied, 'The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!'" Acts 1:1-11 (NLT)

### A. Jesus' disciples rejoiced when Jesus left because they expected to receive power through the Holy Spirit after He was gone.

"...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him." Acts 1:8-9 (NLT)

1. Spirit power is expected for missional living.
2. Missional living is expected for all believers.

"Again he said, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.'" John 20:21 (NLT)

**Life Application:** There is no such thing as an unsent Christian.

### B. Jesus' disciples rejoiced when Jesus left because they expected Him to come back and get them when the time was right.

"As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!'" Acts 1:10-11 (NLT)

Live on purpose, and live with purpose.

**Life Application:** Live a life that leads to why.

### C. Jesus' disciples rejoiced when Jesus left because they expected to share the Good News of Christ with others.

"What should we do with these men?' they asked each other. 'We can't deny that they have performed a miraculous sign, and everybody in Jerusalem knows about it. But to keep them from spreading their propaganda any further, we must warn them not to speak to anyone in Jesus' name again.' So they called the apostles back in and commanded them never again to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, 'Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than him? We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard.'" Acts 4:16-20 (NLT)

We witness as a natural response to that which we have experienced.

**Life Application:** Our job is not to be responsible for the conversion; our job is to be faithful in the proclamation.

Steve Boston • 12-26-21 • [steveboston@centeringlives.com](mailto:steveboston@centeringlives.com)

## Connect Group Questions

Read Acts 1:1-11. Then discuss the following questions:

1. What do you find to be most important about this passage? Why?
2. Can you think of some costs the apostles may have faced for following Jesus and being his witnesses?
3. What costs are there today for following Jesus and being his witness?
4. Challenge: This weekend between worship services, look for someone you do not know. Introduce yourself and talk with them. Perhaps invite them to your Small Group. Be prepared to share about this with your group next week.