

A Matter of Time

Acts 1:1-11

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The book of Acts opens with the disciples wrestling with God's timing. While waiting on God's timing can be painful and frustrating, we can appreciate His timing.

How you can appreciate God's timing

1. Root your Story

The book of Acts was written by Luke, a historian who collected stories and wrote letters to people (v. 1). Luke actively belonged to the body of Christ, functioned in his gifting, and committed to bring about flourishing to those around him. He opens the letter with at least 7 time-related words (vv. 1-3) to teach us that:

#1 Christianity is historic

Christianity is rooted in real past events.

#2 God is orderly

God's will is not random, but is gradually unfolding.

#3 We need context

People need order, reason, and a sense of timing. Created in God's image, we appreciate order as God is a God of order.

#4 Our church has deep, unseen roots

The church's foundational family history includes both the story of Jesus and the story of the early church in Acts.

Your story is God's to write, but yours to root. Who is writing your story? What is your story rooted in? Root your story in the story of Jesus and His church!

2. Purify your Motives

The disciples were commanded by Jesus to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the promise of the Father (v. 4) – the Holy Spirit (v. 5). The disciples responded by asking if this was the time for Israel's freedom from captivity and her restoration to former glory (v. 6). To the disciples, being baptized by the Holy Spirit meant they were the next generation of Joshuas, Samsons, and Davids. Jesus rebuked them by reminding them that only the Father has the

authority over times and seasons (v. 7). The disciple's question revealed the motivation of their hearts. Their ambition for their country had become more important than God's plan for the world. God's timing either tests us or tempts us. It reveals our motives. Don't give up on God fulfilling your desires. But at the same time, purify your motivations. Let God's purposes, without comparison, hold the utmost importance.

3. Resolve your Heart

Jesus challenged the disciples to become witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (v. 8). The Great Commission is a call to pursue the Person of the Holy Spirit, to receive His power, and to fulfill Christ's purpose. The Holy Spirit is the One who enables us (to root our stories, and purify our motives), transforms us (into Christ's witnesses), and empowers us to fulfill the Great Commission.

The disciples, being distracted and overwhelmed, were reminded to focus on the task at hand (v. 11). Despite their incompetence, Jesus continued to be patient towards them because He loved them. He included them in the Father's plans because He considered them His friends (John 15:15). Out of loving friendship, He leaves them so that they may receive the Holy Spirit (John 16:7). Jesus extends this same friendship to you. Root your story in Christ, purify your motives, and resolve in your heart to pursue the person of the Holy Spirit!