

SERMON DISCUSSION

QUESTIONS

JANUARY 3, 2021

Acts: The Kingdom Advances – The Adventure Continues

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WARM-UP

1. Have you had experiences in your life, or those of your family or friends, where you chose (or were required) to wait and prepare for the next steps? Describe the situation and what the waiting time entailed, and why it was necessary. As you look back, how did it all turn out – was the result, or the next steps, worth the wait? If so, in what ways?

DIGGING DEEPER

Today, Pastor Connor begins a new preaching series on the New Testament Book, The Acts of the Apostles. With the backdrop of Jesus' three-and-a-half-year ministry, which is captured in the four Gospel accounts, we now turn to the advancement of His Kingdom by those He commissioned. And we will begin at the beginning.

THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES – Read: Acts 1:1-14

2. This New Testament Book is an adventure story, but unlike some adventure stories, this one is true. And in many respects, as believers, this is our story as well. Share with each other what you know about the Book of Acts – what are all the particulars? And what is the big picture? What do these first 14 verses tell us? Finally, read Mark 1:14-15 – what does Jesus' proclamation have to do with the Book of Acts?

IN ORDER TO ADVANCE, WAIT... – Read: Acts 1:4

3. As Pastor Connor shared, no doubt that at this point in the story, Jesus' Apostles were 'fired up' about the coming adventure – probably a mix of excitement and anxiousness. Why do think this was the case?
4. But in verse four, Jesus commanded them to not leave Jerusalem, but to wait. What did Jesus command them to wait for? Why? Pastor Connor suggests that if the Apostles had rushed ahead, following the 40 days or so of Jesus' teaching, that they would have failed. Why? Can you see the necessity of waiting to be prepared, to be equipped, to be ready? Is this evident in your life as a believer as well? In what ways, and when?

HOW TO WAIT WELL

5. Connor suggested that we not waste the wait. In order to gain from waiting, to be fully prepared for the adventure, and to be equipped for His call, we can grow in four dimensions. Reflect on each of these dimensions with the questions, “How am I doing in this regard?” and “What might I be able to do differently?” and then reflect on the insights from the Apostles Paul and John.
 - a. Grow in Intimacy with Christ – soak and trust in prayer, scripture, community and giving. Read Ephesians 3:16-19 – what does Paul reveal to us in this passage?
 - b. Grow in Character – ask and lean on the power of the Holy Spirit to break sin patterns in your life and turn back to Him (repent). Read Romans 8:12-17 – what does Paul reveal to us in this passage?
 - c. Grow in Your Understanding of God’s Word – read books, listen to sermons or lessons, join or lead Bible studies – in a word, discipling. Read Ephesians 1:16-19 – what does Paul reveal to us in this passage?
 - d. Grow in Your Love for Others – practice hospitality, share the Gospel, help younger believers grow, do random acts of kindness. Read John 13:34-35 – what does Jesus’ new command of the new covenant reveal to us in this regard?

PRAYER

As you consider your life’s journey as Christ’s ambassador, pray that God will prepare you, equip you, and ready you for your continued work of His mission, and that in the times that you need to wait to be prepared, equipped, and readied, that you will see these times as necessary and important to the mission. Ask for the Holy Spirit to work in your life so that you can grow in intimacy, character, understanding and love in ways that deepen your witness. And pray that the Holy Spirit would give you ears to hear, eyes to see, and hearts to respond to His call to you, in order to help fulfill His mission.

In case you missed the service, here are the EAC, Facebook, and YouTube links:

<http://edgewateralliance.org/media/sermon-videos>

<https://www.facebook.com/edgewateralliance/>

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWvQWUv1FD_qsUJUZn93kw