

Jesus, Waiting and Change

Acts 1:1-11

Welcome to worship with NewDay!

As we gather together to worship our Lord and commune with each other, take a moment to reflect on the words of Jesus:

John 13:34-35: ³⁴ "I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. ³⁵ This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other."

Acts 1:1-11 (NIV)

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with[a] water, but in a few days you will be baptized with[b] the Holy Spirit."

6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been

taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.

Changes In the Early Followers of Jesus...

- The early followers of Jesus experienced loss with change (when he died).
- The early followers of Jesus experienced gain with change (when he rose again).
- They reordered their lives because of Jesus. They changed their day of worship.
- They changed the people they spent time with (both people who knew Jesus, and those who didn't know Jesus). They spent more time in the temple praising God.
- They read the Scriptures in a changed way, as a result of Jesus.

Questions For Reflection

How have I reacted to change in the past? Good or bad, what has been my usual reaction or response to change?

If I am curious about how I feel when change is occurring, what do I notice about my thoughts, feelings and behaviors?

How has Jesus changed my life since I met him?

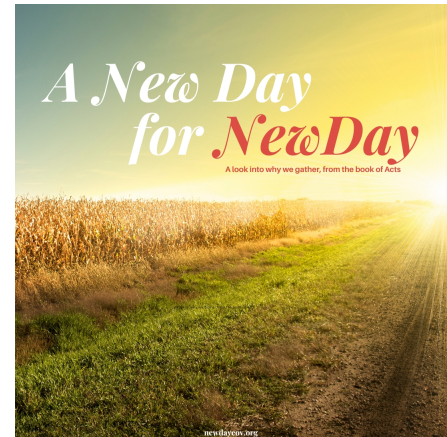
What was my life like, before becoming a follower of Jesus?

What people, places and things may Jesus be calling me to reconsider and re-order, as I seek to follow Him more?

Prayer: Lord, You remain the same yesterday, today and forever. This is such a comforting truth and reality for us. Please be with NewDay in a special way, as we navigate change, and a new season of ministry. Please help us to follow you together, and help us to trust you more. As we wait on you, and actively follow you, we are expectant of all you will do, and people you will bring to join us on the journey with You. Thank you for changing our lives, and giving us life instead of death. Thank you for giving us joy, hope and peace.

We praise You!
Amen.

NOTES:



Scriptures for reflection this week:

- Acts 1:12-26
- Psalm 27
- Isaiah 40
- Isaiah 25
- Psalm 130

NewDay Envisioning Our Ministry Values: We Are...

- ...a community that has a passion to serve others.**
- ...a community that longs for deeper life relationships with God and others.**
- ...passionate about investing in children, youth, and families.**
- ...a people who have a desire to be led by and experience the power of the Holy Spirit in everyday life.**

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