

Acts 1:12-26 'Waiting well'

START WITH MARSHMALLOW CHECK (give out to those who didn't eat!)

Challenge of waiting – hard. Here's some people who had to wait a long time for something – 132 years.... (VIDEO) - SHIRT

Key question for today: (S) how do we wait well for something?

Week of waiting in Christian year – reminds us of this moment in bible.

Disciples had this time of waiting – Jesus gone up to heaven, promised his HS would come to them. What would they do in meantime?

They stayed (S) – easy to give up or go elsewhere for a bit. But here READ v12-13a.

What about us? – if we're waiting for something which we think is God's will, first thing we learn is: stick with it. If it's worth waiting for, it's worth waiting.

But disciples didn't only do that – 2 other key things....

They prayed (S) – READ v14 – used their time to get ready and to keep asking God. Just what Jesus encouraged when alive – Ask and you will receive....

We're often embarrassed to ask God for things – taught importance of self-reliance. But God isn't embarrassed – he encourages it! 'Ask me'. Needs to be the sort of thing he can agree to – won't give you a winning lottery ticket or hurt someone you don't like. But he loves to shower his blessings on us.

So maybe God's call to you today is to pray for something you're waiting for – to actually ask him.

Prayer key – (S) because it *unlocks* things. Maybe Spirit might have come later if they hadn't prayed? Maybe they wouldn't have been ready if they hadn't prayed. So it is practical and powerful – they stayed, they prayed.

Finally: (S) **They made... plans.** Prayer vital, but doesn't mean we don't do anything practical. Here they had a practical issue – one person down. Judas has disgraced himself, needed a new leader on team. So they got down to business – selected 2 and let God choose. That's the reason for lots – not luck – READ v24. God chooses Matthias (Matt) – good choice!

Story has a happy ending – (S) next week at Festival of Pentecost, God’s Spirit comes and they are changed forever, and the world is changed forever. But it starts with them waiting well. Jesus had made them a promise – so they stayed, they prayed and they made.... plans.

What is God saying to you today? How can we learn to wait well?