

# WHILE YOU WERE WAITING

(Acts 1)

## Introduction:

A generation ago, men were banned from the maternity ward while their wives were in labour. Four men were in the hospital waiting room, as their wives were having babies. A nurse went up to the first guy and said “congratulations! You’re a father of twins!”

“That’s a crazy coincidence,” he replied, “as I work for Twin Waters Resort.”

The nurse then approached the second guy. “congratulations! You are the father of triplets!”

“That’s a crazy coincidence,” he replied, “because I work for the 3M company.”

She then walked up to the third guy. “Congratulations! You’re the father of quadruplets!”

“That’s a crazy coincidence,” he commented. “I work for the Four Seasons Hotel Group.”

By this time, the fourth guy was freaking out, and banging his head against the wall. The nurse went over to him and asked “What’s wrong? Are you OK?”

“NO!” he whispered. “I’m totally screwed. I work for Channel 7!”

- How do you handle a long wait?
- Jesus had appeared over a period of forty days and spoke to the disciples about the kingdom of God.
  - Then as they watched, He ascended into Heaven.

**Acts 1:12-17; 21-26** *Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day’s walk from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to a room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew, Philip and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.*

*They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary, the mother of Jesus and with His brothers.*

*In those days, Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about 120) and said, “Brothers, the Scripture has to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David, concerning Judas, who serves as a guide for those who arrested Jesus – he was one of our number and shared in this ministry.”*

*.....therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from John’s baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.*

*So they proposed two men; Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. Then they prayed, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.” Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven disciples.*

## **1. Luke Wrote Acts**

- Luke is the only gentile author in the NT
- Luke was not an apostle.
  - He became a Christian after the resurrection)
- Luke was a doctor
  - Highly educated
  - Precise; not easily fooled.
- Luke was a writer / journalist.
  - Interviewed people to get the facts
    - Matthew expanded on the teaching of Jesus
    - Mark concentrated on the ministry of Jesus
    - John emphasised who Jesus is
    - Luke gives a more complete picture of his life and teaching.
- Luke was gathering facts to help Paul in his court case in Rome.

## 2. Background to the Feasts in Acts

- Disciples were Jews.
  - Jews were used to patterns and regular events in the religious calendar.

### (a) Feast of Passover.

- Passover began with the slaying of the Passover lamb
  - Symbolised the blood of protection covering them
    - Jesus is now our Passover Lamb.
- Passover Feast went for 7 days.
  - 7<sup>th</sup> day was to remember the crossing of the Red Sea.

*The Jews left Egypt on the first day of Passover. They were pursued by the Egyptians until the parting of the Red Sea, which occurred 7 days later. Although the exodus started on the first day, it was not completed until the seventh.” [quote form Midrash Jewish Commentary.]*

- Paul’s illustration:

**1 Corinthians 10:2-4** *They were all baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.”*

- OT Baptised into Moses
  - NT Baptised into Christ
- OT shared spiritual food and drink through Moses
  - NT Not “just an” outward thing, but an inward reality

### (b) Feast of Pentecost

- Pentecost was celebrated 50 days after Passover.
- Remembrance of a “God encounter”
  - Giving of the Law.
  - NOTE that God gave them freedom / salvation from slavery, BEFORE He gave them the Law.

(c) See the Pattern

	Old Testament	New Testament
Passover	Lamb sacrificed The price was paid	Jesus died on the Cross The price has been paid
	Exodus complete (Red Sea) Became a new nation	Water baptism Become part of a new family.
Pentecost	Law given (Mt Sinai)	Giving of the Holy Spirit

**3. Preparing and Waiting**

- Did they know when the gift would be given?
- Will God give the Holy Spirit?

**Luke 11:9-13** *So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.*

*Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!*

(a) Early Church

**Acts 1:14** *They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary, the mother of Jesus and with His brothers.*

- Words used in different translations:
  - Singular purpose
  - United
  - One accord
  - Devoted
  - Earnest
  - Constant
  - Gripped with one passion.
- There has to be a DESIRE

(b) Repentance and Confession

- How would they have felt about Judas?
  - How would they have felt about Jesus' brothers?
- Change of thinking required
  - Confession of wrong attitudes or actions.

(c) Filling the Void

- Practical terms
  - Replace Judas
  - Replace toxicity with openness
- Disciples did what they knew – cast lots
  - Why does the church not do this today?

**Romans 8:14** *Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."*