

# Discussion Questions for Sunday, June 28, 2015

## Active Waiting in the Upper Room (Acts 1:12-14)

1. Review and discuss the 5 significant themes running through the book of Acts. (The risen and returning Lord Jesus Christ, the Word of God and the Gospel, The Holy Spirit, Christ's chosen witnesses, God's sovereign purposes)
2. How do you prepare for what's next in life when God tells you to wait? Acts 1:12-14 describes ACTIVE WAITING IN THE UPPER ROOM. What did it look like? What did they do as they waited? Their preparation was to wait, to obey, to fellowship, and to pray.
  - A. Simple Obedience
  - B. Likeminded Fellowship
  - C. Persistent Prayer
3. TIE-IN TO CURRENT EVENTS: How do obedience, fellowship, and prayer play in as we navigate turbulent current events in our hearts, lives, households, the church, and the world?

We are living in turbulent times. People rejecting Christ's Lordship and usurping God's authority. Mocking His Word. Individually and nationwide. Three days ago the United States Supreme Court was caught playing God once again; this time redefining marriage, & setting it into stone via law. The high court ruling 5-4 that same-sex couples have a nationwide right to marry, no matter what individual states or their residents might say.

Franklin Graham replied "With all due respect to the court, it did not define marriage, and therefore is not entitled to re-define it." It should grieve the hearts of Bible-believing Christians because it is a grievous offense against God. Grieves the heart of God. We should not expect unbelievers to display the fruit of the Spirit or act like believers should, but that does not absolve people of their responsibility before God. All are ultimately accountable to Him whether they acknowledge Him or not. Isaiah 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, Romans 1:18-22 the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ...Claiming to be wise, they became fools... Psalm 14:1 The fool says in his heart there is no God. No matter what man may say or do God is still and always will be God. The Bible still says the same thing. And our mission has not changed. I hope the Gospel has become nearer and dearer to your heart these past few days. The reason for a believer's existence pushed to the forefront with pinpoint accuracy: We are here on earth as believers to be witnesses for Jesus Christ. We have the all-powerful HOLY SPIRIT indwelling and sanctifying us.

Albert Mohler gives a balanced perspective on gay marriage becoming the law of the land..."In one sense, everything has changed. And yet, nothing has changed. The cultural and legal landscape has changed, as we believe this will lead to very real harms to our neighbors. But our Christian responsibility has not changed. We are charged to uphold marriage as the union of a man and a woman and to speak the truth in love. We are also commanded to uphold the truth about marriage in our own lives, in our own marriages, in our own families, and in our own churches. We are called to be the people of the truth, even when the truth is not popular and even when the truth is denied by the culture around us. Christians have found themselves in this position before, and we will again. God's truth has not changed. The Holy Scriptures have not changed. The Gospel of Jesus Christ has not changed. The church's mission has not changed. Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever."

God is sovereign and He knows all things. And He has given us a high calling, to represent Him to the world. He is not surprised by the world. We may be but we shouldn't be. You should not expect unbelievers to act like believers. God doesn't expect the world to live like Christ followers, but He does expect professing believers to live up to their profession. What God expects, He enables. What will make our witness effective is when we surprise the world with blessing instead of cursing, love instead of hatred, compassion instead of condemnation. We don't need to agree to be agreeable.

4. Pray through the GCO prayer guide together. Give special attention to "making supplication for all the saints."