**Sermon Series Title: *Rooted in Faith***

**Sermon Title: “Trusting the Lord Through Life’s Transitions”**

**Date: May 16, 2021**

**Scripture: Acts 1:4-12**

**Passage Background and Summary**

This passage takes place during the time Jesus appears and spends time with the disciples after the resurrection and leading up to the ascension. The scripture for today begins with Jesus instructing the disciples “not to leave Jerusalem” and “to wait there for the promise of the Father” (v. 4). This will come in the baptism of the Holy Spirit which will take place at Pentecost. They ask if it is the time for the Kingdom to be restored to Israel, and Jesus tells them it is not for them to know the time and, “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (v. 8). After he says that, he is taken into the clouds, and they can no longer see him. Two men in white robes then appear standing with them. The men prophesy of Jesus’s return. After all of this takes place, they return to Jerusalem to wait for what is to come as Jesus instructed them.

**Sermon Summary**

Sometimes we have to live in the transition. The question is how do you remain rooted or grounded when the very ground beneath you is shifting? We sing, “On Christ the sold rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand.” This is difficult for the disciples because if you stand on Christ, what do you do when Christ is moving and you’re between the ascension and Pentecost? How do you live life in the middle when what you hope for has not yet come, the past is leaving, and all you have is a promise? Transitions create their own challenge. There’s someone struggling because they can see the problem but can’t see Jesus. What do you do when you can see your enemies, but you can’t see God?

They’d left it all for Jesus. To become oriented to God, you have to become disoriented to the things of this world. One can understand the mother of James and John. There was no one left to take over their father’s fishing business, and their mother wanted some sense of assurance that her children would be taken care of, at the left and right hand of Jesus. There were also women who left everything to follow Jesus. And now, he says he’s about to leave. How do you wait for the promise when you don’t know what it looks like and you’re just in that liminal space? Like a child traveling and asking, “Are we there yet?” The people of God are asking, “Is this the time?” Is this the time to find a romantic partner or get a promotion or stop struggling in life? How do you live in the in between time? In between graduation and getting a job, in between the divorce and finding love again, etc.

Nevertheless, what feels like a pause, is part of the plan of God. Momma was right when she said, “He may not come when you want him, but he’ll be there right on time.” We can lift up our heads, and the King of glory shall come in. God is trying to usher us into a new season, but sometimes we can’t see what God is doing because we’re busy grieving what is gone. The same way God is moving some things out, God is moving some things in. Why do you spend all your time talking about how it used to be? We have a way of romanticizing how things used to be when we’re going through transition. How far back do you want to go to the olden days? Do not become so mesmerized by memories that you can’t follow God into the future.

Maybe the pandemic was a pause to get us ready for Pentecost. It can be difficult to wait on the Lord. You may feel like you’re in a rut, but it’s a bridge. It’s like a bridge in music. Sometimes in order to change keys, go up higher, rise up into a new phraseology, you have to go through something, a musical transition. Can you make it to the bridge? Can you make it until you get to where God is trying to take you? Can you hang on just a little while longer? If you can hang on, Pentecost will surely come, and the Holy Spirit will blow through your life.

**Reflection Questions**

1. Are you in the midst of a life transition? Explain.
2. Reflect on a time it was difficult to see God given the circumstances. What happened?
3. How do you become oriented towards God?
4. What would you risk for the sake of following Jesus?
5. How do you endure the in between time?
6. Where do you think God is leading you in this season?
7. What are you praying God will do in your life?