

# WHY

## ACTS 1:9-14

Text: Acts 1:11

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<sup>11</sup> Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Introduction:

**Why** we do what we do for the Lord is as important as **what** we do for Him. There is much emphasis placed on what we do but very little consideration is given as to why.

### Proverbs 17:3

<sup>3</sup> The fining pot *is* for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts.

There are many compelling motives to live for the Lord, but there are none so compelling as His imminent return. After His return we will stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

### 2 Corinthians 5:10

<sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.

# 1. THE MOTIVATION OF THE MINISTRY (VSS. 9-11)

## Acts 1:9-11

<sup>9</sup> And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; <sup>11</sup> Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Note – The Lord was about to depart from earth and return back to Heaven. Before doing that, He left the apostles a final and powerful motivation to faithfulness.

### A. The Lord's Ascension

1. The Lord is now in His resurrected body.

After His resurrection, the Lord appeared to the disciples and spent time with them, teaching them what they would need to know to carry on His work.

2. The apostles standing on the Mount.

## Luke 24:50-51

<sup>50</sup> And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. <sup>51</sup> And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

## B. The angel's wonderful promise

The angels gave the disciples the promise that they were not being forsaken. Not only would the Holy Spirit come as Jesus had told them, but the very same Jesus who had now ascended into Heaven would one day return to the very spot on which they were standing.

### **Zechariah 14:4**

<sup>4</sup> And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which *is* before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, *and there shall be* a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

Note – This same Jesus will return.

Note – This promise becomes an amazing motivation for us to work.

### **Romans 13:11-14**

<sup>11</sup> And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed. <sup>12</sup> The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. <sup>13</sup> Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. <sup>14</sup> But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*.

### **John 9:4**

<sup>4</sup> I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

## 2. THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY (VSS. 12-13)

### Acts 1:12-13

<sup>12</sup> Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey. <sup>13</sup> And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James *the son* of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas *the brother* of James.

Note – The apostles were chosen by the Lord, and they were personal witnesses of the resurrected Savior.

A. They were gathered together according to the Lord's instructions.

### Acts 10:39-42

<sup>39</sup> And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: <sup>40</sup> Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; <sup>41</sup> Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, *even* to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God *to be* the Judge of quick and dead.

### Matthew 10:1-4

<sup>1</sup> And when he had called unto *him* his twelve disciples, he gave them power *against* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. <sup>2</sup> Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James *the son* of Zebedee, and John his brother; <sup>3</sup> Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James *the son* of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus,

whose surname was Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup> Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

These men were chosen by God for that particular moment in history.

- **Peter** was impulsive but zealous.
- **James**, the brother of John, would die a martyr's death; he was faithful and courageous.
- **John** was gentle and passionate; he was responsible.
- **Andrew** was concerned for others.
- **Philip** was practical and thorough.
- **Thomas** was a doubter.
- **Bartholomew** was blameless and patient.
- **Matthew** left all to follow Christ.
- **James** was humble and quiet.
- **Simon** had been a member of the Zealots.
- **Judas** the brother of James was steadfast.

Note – Mary and the half brothers of Jesus were present in the assembly. They would provide leadership in the church at Jerusalem.

Note – These were men of like passions to us. They had recently lost a good friend, or so they thought, in Judas Iscariot. They were brought together for a purpose.

### B. They were waiting obediently

Jesus had given them instructions to stay in Jerusalem until they received the Holy Spirit.

#### **Acts 1:4**

<sup>4</sup> And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me.

Note – They were waiting in the upper room, praying and waiting on God's power.

## **3. THE METHOD OF THE WAITING (VSS. 14)**

Note – In ten days time, this small group of people would be a part of the greatest moving of God in history.

## A. Perseverance

The Bible says the “continued” in Jerusalem. Many times we fail to see God’s power revealed because we give up too soon.

### **Galatians 6:9**

<sup>9</sup> And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Note – They didn’t know how long they would have to wait, they just obeyed. They didn’t stop praying until they received the promise of the Spirit.

## B. Unity

The Bible says that they were in “one accord.” There was no dissenting voice or murmuring of gossip in the upper room. They had a oneness of heart and mind.

1. They were united at the doctrine of Christ.
2. They were united at the commands of Christ.

Note – People will disappoint you, but we must reunite around truth.

Note – If we gather with a common belief and a common cause we will seek and find a common unity.

## C. Prayer

The apostles realized that there was a gap in their ranks caused by the suicide of Judas. They were also no doubt praying for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Note – Our praylessness will often reveal itself throughout the day. A daily time of worship with God is important. It is so important that when we miss it, others can notice it.

Illustration:

Such was the case when the little four year old boy made an honest mistake and spilled something in the house. His mother responded with a screaming fit. The little theologian made an shrewd observation and said, “Mommy you forgot to ask Jesus to help you be nice today, didn’t you?”

Close:

We can still see God work in such a way, because we still serve the same resurrected Savior as the apostles did. He still delights in using ordinary people; therefore we must wait in unity for His power and blessing!