



*Notes for Adult discussion groups at
On-Line@9 Worship Service
on 4 May 2008*

'Watch and Wait!'

Acts 1 : 6 - 14

When the apostles met together with Jesus, they asked him, 'Lord, will you at this time give the Kingdom back to Israel?' Jesus said to them, 'The times and occasions are set by my Father's own authority, and it is not for you to know when they will be. But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' After saying this, he was taken up to heaven as they watched him, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They still had their eyes fixed on the sky as he went away, when two men dressed in white suddenly stood beside them and said, 'Galileans, why are you standing their looking up at the sky? This Jesus, who was taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way that you saw him go to heaven.'

Then the apostles went back to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, which is about a kilometre away from the city. They entered the city and went up to the room where they were staying: Peter, John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Patriot, and Judas son of James. They gathered frequently to pray as a group, together with the women and with Mary, the mother of Jesus and with his brothers.

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1. How would you describe the disciples' concern as they met Jesus prior to him being taken up to heaven (v6)? What message does Jesus give to the disciples in response to this concern (v7)?

2. The disciples are told to go first to Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, then the whole world in their witnessing for Jesus. What was the term 'whole world' likely to have meant to the disciples at that time and what does it mean for us today?

3. 'Galileans, why are you standing there looking up at the sky (v11)?' What if any, are the hidden implications for our church with this question?

4. Please share within the group any experience of you being called to 'witness for Christ' in any situation where you would have preferred not to have been. What was the outcome?

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