

Spirit filled or Spiritual? Bill Warrick

Acts 1:12-26

1. It is often said that good is the enemy of best. Share a time where you passed on something good before God brought something better along. Maybe a decision, a purchase, a career path, etc.
2. What value was there in God choosing to delay the Holy Spirit's arrival fifty days after Jesus ascension when it would seem to make sense that one would immediately replace the other? **It forced the disciples to wait on God's timing, it created unity amidst those early disciples as they prayed and waited together, other answers possible.**
3. Read Acts 1:12-26. What is the difference between a descriptive passage and a prescriptive passage? **Descriptive passages simply tell about an event whereas prescriptive passages are intended to be instructive. Descriptive passages are often tied to specific time, culture, and situations. Prescriptive passages are universal for God people.** What types, or styles, of Bible writings are descriptive and what styles are prescriptive? **Narrative, some poetry, prayers/psalms are mostly descriptive. Commands, instructions, promises, are prescriptive.** How do we test if a narrative contains a prescriptive principle (like following Jesus example of washing feet) or if it is just descriptive (like Judas taking his life, or Abraham leaving home to follow God on a journey?) **We must check those stories for proper narrative context (did God approve or disapprove of their actions) and proper biblical context (what does the rest of the Bible have to say about this act?)**
4. Read Proverbs 16:33. What is the assumption in regards to the casting of lots as a decision making tool? **God determined the outcome.** Why are there no more instances in the New Testament of decisions being made by the casting of lots? **The Holy Spirit comes in chapter 2 and begins to indwell Gods people.**
5. How do we make decisions now as spirit filled believers? **We believe God can speak to our hearts through the conviction and convincing of the Spirit.** How do we check ourselves to be sure that we are properly being led by the Spirit and not simply deceiving ourselves? **God's personal leadings will never contradict his written word, we should ask other believers to affirm what we believe God is leading us to do, and we can ask if our leading is consistent with the spiritual gifts and calling that God has given to us.**
6. As we discussed in group last week, the apostleship of Saul/Paul later on in Acts will reveal God's plan for the twelfth disciple was not Matthias, but that the disciples were correct in their knowledge that Judas had to be replaced. How have you seen this principle true? "God's plan for Wisdom is doing the right thing and doing it at the right time."
7. What decisions are you contemplating right now in your life that you are praying for God's Spirit filling you so that you can follow his leading?

Close by praying for the decisions that were mentioned in group as well as for a fresh filling of the Spirit in our lives each day.