



**Teaching Notes:** Ray Davis  
May 1, 2011  
**How It Changes Everything!**

## desert breeze community church

### Acts 1:12-26 "Living In-Between"

The disciples are living in-between the promise and its fulfillment. Living In-between is seldom an easy place to live. How do you get through those in-between times without crashing and burning?

#### Living In-Between Involves...

Acts 1:12-26

#### **Keeping Your Heart Appropriately Motivated:**

It's not the quality but the object of your faith that saves you. Getting to know the object of your faith (Jesus) will increase its quality.

Once you've experienced His presence His absence is unbearable. An awareness of His absence is a sign of His presence in your life.

**Not Neglecting Spiritual Disciplines:** Activities that increase my capacity to experience the presence of God more consistently leading to greater levels of maturity. There is a major difference between trying and training to do something.

Four things they did in-between:

- ☑ They Stuck Together (Community). V14 "All of these with one accord..." v15 "The company of persons was in all about 120." (Exodus 6:7; Eccl. 4:9-12; 55 "one another's" in the NT)
- ☑ They Prayed Together (Prayer). V14 "...devoting themselves to prayer" v24 "And they prayed..." (Matt. 18:19-20; James 5:16)
- ☑ They Studied Together (Bible). V16 "The Scripture had to be fulfilled..." V20 "For it is written..." (Ps. 119; Matt. 4:4; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Acts 2:42)

- ☑ They Worked Together (Ministry). V13 (List of disciples) v15 "Peter stood up..." vv21-22 (Leadership [Apostle] qualifications) V23 "And they put forward two..." v24 "And they prayed..." v26 "And they cast lots..." (Matt. 16:13-19; Eph. 4:11-16; Matt. 5:14-16)

The assurance of God's sacrificial love on the cross gives me the humility to see my need for community but also the confidence to not be overly needy of community.

"There is no saint without a past, no sinner without a future."

St. Augustine



# Growing

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- 1) Just when the Disciples thought all hope was gone Jesus resurrects and tells them to wait for the promise (Act 1:4-5, 8) and then ascends into heaven promising to return in the same way. What do you think was going through their minds? How hard is it to live in-between? What are you living in-between?
- 2) Read Acts 1:12-26. What stands out to you from this text? Why is it important to keep your heart appropriately motivated to successfully live in-between? Why is the object more important than the quality of your faith? How do you increase the quality of your faith? How will a higher quality of faith help you with living in-between?
- 3) Once you've experienced His presence His absence is unbearable. Explain. What do you think was the emotional state of the disciples after Jesus departed? Why is an awareness of His absence (spiritual dryness) a sign of His presence in your life?
- 4) What are spiritual disciplines? How important are they? What are the four things the community of 120 disciples did living in-between? Which one(s) are strengths and which one(s) growth areas for you? What next steps can you begin to take to cultivate this and be a part of this kind of community?
- 5) How does pride and fear keep us from this kind of community? How does the Gospel overcome fear and pride leading to increased community? Pray it!