

Sermon Notes

Sunday, 19th April 2026

40 Days: A Sacred Pause

Scripture: Key verse Acts 1.3 & Acts 1.1-26

Summary:

God's mission does not pause during leadership transitions. He is already at work, and our call is to trust him rather than rush ahead of him.

1. The Kingdom Is Bigger Than the Moment

- Jesus spent 40 days after the resurrection speaking about one thing: the Kingdom
- The Kingdom was big enough to hold both grief and hope at the same time
- References: Acts 1.3, Revelation 21.1-5

2. God Works Through Transitions

- Moses handed off to Joshua short of the finish line, yet God's promise held
- Saul's messy decline did not delay David's rise. God was already working underground.
- The wilderness between leaders is formation ground, not wasted time
- References: Joshua 1.2, Joshua 1.5, 1 Samuel 16.1

3. Departure Can Become Commission

- Jesus intentionally prepared the disciples for his physical absence
- The transition was not from Jesus to nothing. It was from Jesus *with* them to Jesus *within* them.
- References: Acts 1.4-5, Acts 1.8

4. The Warning in the Waiting

- Jesus ordered the disciples to wait. Instead, they got busy replacing Judas.
- Matthias was chosen prayerfully and biblically, yet Jesus never ordered it. He disappears from the narrative entirely.
- God's answer to their vacancy was already being prepared on the road to Damascus.
- The danger is not the gap. It is filling the gap on your timeline instead of God's.
- References: Acts 1.20-26, Acts 9.1-6

Reflection Questions

- Where in your own life are you tempted to mistake activity for obedience? What would it look like to genuinely wait on God?
- Read Joshua 1.1-9. What does God's response to Moses' death reveal about how He can handle a transition?

Here are some other transitions

- Moses to Joshua / Joshua 1.1-9 / God's presence promised in the handoff
- Saul to David / 1 Samuel 16.1-13 / God anoints before the old chapter closes
- Elijah to Elisha / 1 Kings 19.19-21 and 2 Kings 2.1-15 / A mentored and prepared successor
- John the Baptist to Jesus / John 3.28-30 / The willing decrease of one for the increase of another
- Jesus to the Holy Spirit / Acts 1.4-8 and Acts 2.1-4 / Departure becoming commissioning
- Paul to Timothy / 2 Timothy 1.6-7 and 2 Timothy 2.1-2 / A charge passed to the next generation