

COOKING WITH G.A.S. • SELF-STUDY • PENTECOST PREPARATION

Stay Until



A Theological Exegesis of Luke 24:49

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We are in the gap.



Unit 5 • "I Can't"
(Jeremiah 20:9)

The fire in
the bones.

Between what
God said and what
you can see.

Pentecost Sunday
(Acts 2:1-21)

The fire
that falls.

This study will not resolve the tension.
It will help you understand it.

**I am going to send you what
my Father has promised; but
stay in the city until you have
been clothed with power
from on high.**

— Luke 24:49 (NIV)

This is resurrection morning—and everything after.

The empty tomb.
The road to Emmaus.
The locked room.

Luke 24:49 is the last thing Jesus says in the Gospel of Luke before He is taken up into heaven.

These are not casual words.
These are final words.

A man who knew He was leaving chose these words to leave behind.

Every word is intentional.

PHRASE ONE

I am going to send you what
my Father has promised

1. The promise comes first.
2. Before the command.
3. Before the waiting.
4. Before the fulfillment.

“

God announces before He delivers. You don't stay because you earned the right to receive. You stay because the One who is sending has already committed to sending.

”

PHRASE ONE • WORD STUDY

ἀποστέλλω (*apostellō*)

I am going to send

Root: *apostolos* (*apostle / the sent one*)

For three years, the disciples were professional sent-ones. In this final moment, Jesus reverses the direction. He becomes the dispatcher; they become the destination.

The Spirit is not something you go to get. It is dispatched to you.

ἐπαγγελία (*epangelia*)

the promise

The Promise Chain:

- Joel 2:28 ("pour out my Spirit")
- Isaiah 32:15 ("poured on us from on high")
- Ezekiel 36:27 ("put my Spirit in you")
- Luke 3:16 ("baptize you with the Holy Spirit")

This promise is centuries old.
You are standing at its fulfillment.

PAUSE • PERSONAL REFLECTION

Is there a promise God has spoken over your life that you've been treating as contingent on your performance?

The promise is not contingent on your readiness.
It is contingent on **His faithfulness.**

Write your honest answer before moving on. Take your time here.

The Reality of Jerusalem

- Where the crucifixion happened.
- Where the betrayal happened.
- Where Peter denied Him three times.
- Where they scattered.

**And the risen Jesus says: Go back there.
Plant yourself there. Don't leave.**

PHRASE TWO

“But stay in the city”

What is your Jerusalem? The place or season you've been tempted to leave before the promise arrives.

καθίσατε (kathisate)

stay in the city

Grammar: Aorist imperative — a sharp, direct command.



NOT: pause briefly,
wait impatiently



BUT: plant yourself there,
settle in, take up residence

Staying is an act of obedience. Staying is an act of resistance.
Staying is itself a form of faith.

ACTS 1:14 • WHAT HAPPENED IN THE GAP

The Gap Was Not Empty

ὁμοθυμαδόν (*homothumadon*) — *with one accord; moved by the same interior impulse.*

- 🔥 - They gathered together.
- 🔥 - They prayed constantly.
- 🔥 - They were unified in longing.
- 🔥 - They refused to scatter again.

**The gap was not a waiting room.
It was a prayer room. A formation room.
A community being built.**



PHRASE THREE

Until you have been clothed with power from on high

The command has an end point. "Until" is a promise disguised as a limitation. Nobody tells you to wait until something that isn't coming.

The very existence of the "until" is your evidence that the fulfillment is already in motion.



Heaven's Initiation

ἐξ ὕψους (*ex hypsous*)
FROM ON HIGH

It descends. Heaven initiates. Earth receives.
The source is not in you.



δύναμιν (*dynamin*)
POWER

Same word as Luke 4:14. The power that anointed
Jesus is promised to the whole community.



Earth's Reception

ἐνδύσησθε (*endysēsthe*)
CLOTHED

Aorist passive — you are dressed by someone else.
You cannot put this garment on yourself.

Sidebar Box

The Passive Voice

You are not the active agent.
The disciples do not clothe
themselves; they are clothed.

Stop trying to produce what
only heaven can send. Your job
is to stay until He sends it.

THEOLOGICAL SYNTHESIS • VOICES ON THE GAP

The gap is not a waiting room. The gap is a formation room.
All three say the same thing from different angles:

Howard Thurman

The Inward Journey

The soul lives in the waiting place as the necessary ground of formation.

The gap is not God's absence; it may be His most intensive presence.

James Cone

Defiant Resistance

Staying in suffering is not passive. Refusing to leave Jerusalem just because it tried to break you is a declaration that the enemy does not get to determine what ground is worth occupying.

Katie Geneva Cannon

Moral Formation

The moral life is lived in the impossible possibility.

Character is not formed in moments of arrival; it is formed in the gap.

What you become in the waiting is the very thing God is building.

THE QUESTION CARRYING INTO THE WEEK

“If staying is the command—and the clothing is the promise—what is actually keeping you from planting yourself fully in the place God has assigned you right now?”

Don't answer it tonight. Sit with it. Pray with it. Bring it to Sunday.


APPLICATION • THIS WEEK • CHOOSE ONE



01. Sit in Your Jerusalem

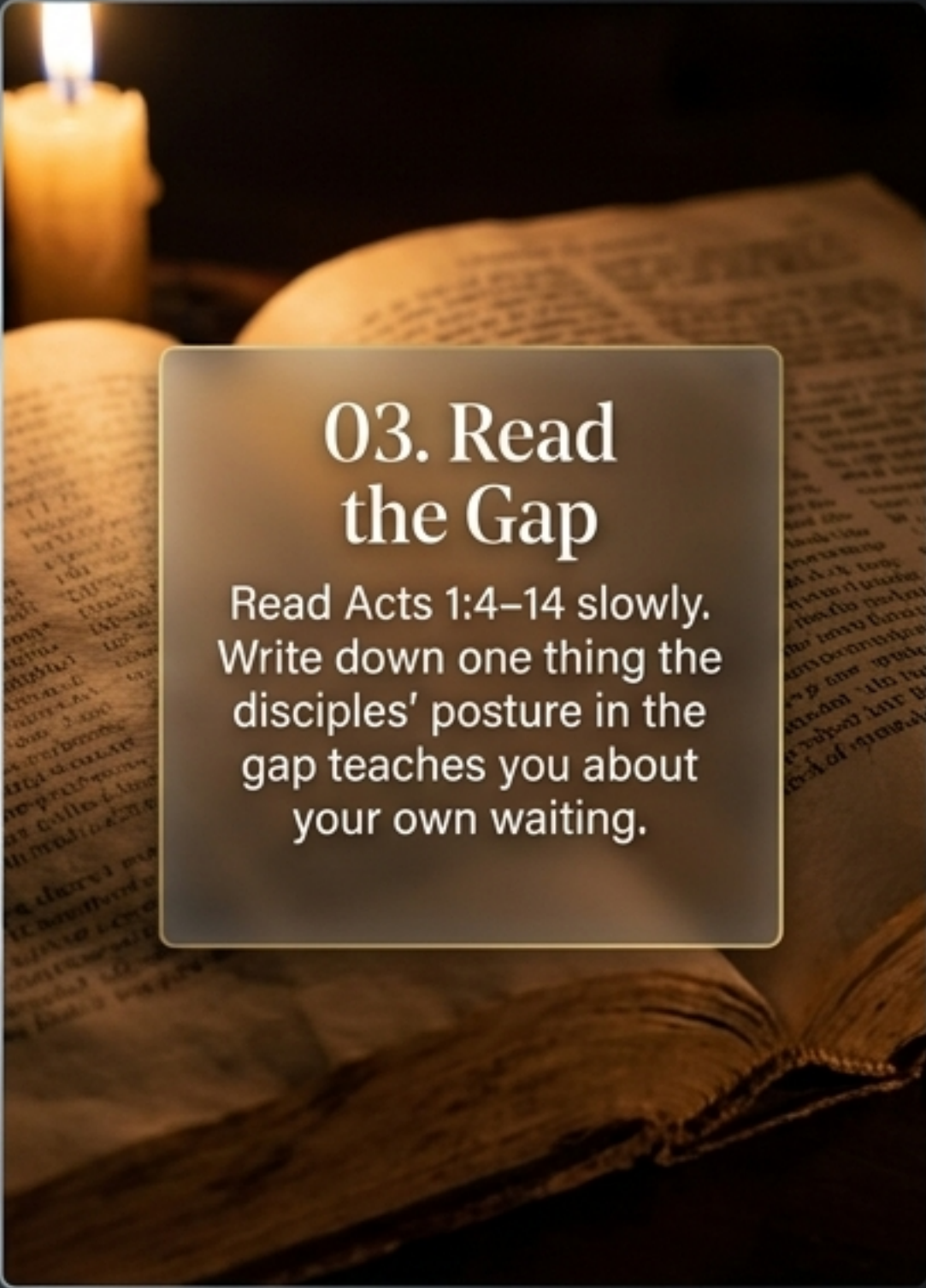
Spend intentional time in the place or season you've been tempted to leave.

Don't fix it. Just stay present. Notice what God does in that presence.



02. Pray With Someone

Find one person from this congregation. Pray together about what you're each waiting on. Come with presence, not answers.



03. Read the Gap

Read Acts 1:4–14 slowly. Write down one thing the disciples' posture in the gap teaches you about your own waiting.

MEMORY VERSE

“I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

— Luke 24:49 (NIV)

Carry this into the week.

Horizon

COMING SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2026 • PENTECOST SUNDAY

I — Ignited by the Spirit (Acts 2:1-21)

The fire you have been waiting for is one week away. Stay until.

