

WHILE YOU WAIT
Once Upon A Time, Part 8
November 13th, 2011

The Bible is one story about God in pursuit of a Relationship with mankind

We are all forced to wait in different environments, and we don't enjoy it

After Christ's death & resurrection the disciples wanted to know, "Is now the time You are going to restore the Kingdom of Israel?" Jesus said no, something else had to happen first

Jesus announced the next chapter in the story of redemption; it wasn't the final chapter

Matthew 16:13-18

Christ said He would build His church; 2,000 years later we are part of the story

"On this rock I will build My church" refers to Peter's statement that Jesus is the Messiah

No matter what obstacles come up, nothing will stop Christ's Christ

You have been involved in the fulfillment of prophecy, a chapter in the story of redemption that is just as significant as what happened to Abraham, Moses, David, & the nation of Israel

The church is unique – it's not a family, nation, kingdom – it's the body of Christ

Question: What is the church suppose to be doing?

God is no less active in this age than He has been in ages past

Our marching orders as a church are found in Matthew 28:16-20

The church is to be about the business of bringing people into God's Kingdom

Promise: As you (as an individual and a local church) fulfill your responsibility in this age, Christ will be with you

If you want to get in on what God is doing in this generation, you must embrace the commission God has given us – to bring people into His Kingdom

This age will end one day, and when it does you will wish you had been about what God left you here to do

Why is God waiting to bring in His Kingdom? See 2 Peter 3:9

What Should We Be Doing Today? Pursuing 3 Relationships

1. Pursue intimacy with God
2. Pursue community with other Christians
3. Pursue relationships with non-Christians to influence them toward Christ

We're to leverage our influence with the people around us so they might see something different in us and put their faith in Christ

Why do this? Because we believe all this – there is a real eternal heaven and hell

If we genuinely as a community of Christians, reflect the character and nature of Christ, we would be attractive to those who don't consider themselves to be religious

For your sake, our sake, the Kingdom's sake, for the story's sake, get in the game

If you want to experience the presence & power of God, get in on what He is doing

In this age, Scripture is clear on what God is up to – make disciples

God has chosen you to be part of the story – that is humbling, honoring and hopeful

Our challenge – let's be the church - This will happen with or without us

Don't miss the opportunity to be and to accomplish what God has called us for

We need to wait patiently and proactively - while we wait make disciples

My Next Step Today Is:

- I need to take my personal relationship with Christ to the next level
- I need to connect with other believers at New Hope on a deeper level
- I need to ask God to use me to influence those around me who aren't Christians yet