

Series: The Acts of the Apostles: From Jerusalem

Text: Acts 1:1-26

HI: His mission continues.

Title: *Roll Call*

Hook: Roll Call

Date: 9.8.22

Purpose: To exalt the reigning Jesus and encourage his people to bear witness to his gospel.

FCF: Like the disciples, we would like the Lord to bring his kingdom quickly, perhaps with little work on our part. The grace of God meets us here, as he promises to send his Spirit to empower his people to bear witness to his Son.

COR: The followers of Jesus were a tiny movement (120), living an upside-down kingdom ethic, and in this scene, their leader leaves them. Instead of scattering, as they did when he was taken to the cross, they obey his instruction, wait for his promise, and work in unity considering his plan. When they may have felt they didn't know where to turn, they looked to the Scriptures and trusted God's word.

Christ Trajectory [CT*]: The "acts of the apostles" is not the full story, since this account is really the work of Jesus by his Spirit, through his people. The mission of Jesus, which begins in these pages, continues apace in our lives in this moment.

Apologetic: v. 3: This is a 'yes or no' proposition. This book is written as a historic account, following the gospel of Luke, which makes claims about things that really happened in history. This isn't a fable. And it calls us to make a choice. Do you believe this?

Form: Deductive

Outline:

I. Acts is a gospel sequel. (1-5)

A. Luke recalls the gospel. (1-3)

B. Jesus commands the disciples. (3b-5)

C. The mission of Jesus continues. (1)

II. The ascension is a mission prequel. (6-11)

A. His words clarified their role. (6-8)

B. His ascension established his rule. (9-11)

III. This selection is a prophetic inclination. (12-26)

A. They fully believed Jesus. (12-14)

B. They obviously trusted Scripture. (15-20)

C. They clearly understood their role. (21-26)

Main Idea:

Subject: How will the mission of Jesus continue after his ascension?¹

Complement: by the power of his Spirit through the witness of his people.

Exegetical Idea: After his ascension, the mission of Jesus would continue by the power of his Spirit through the witness of his people.

Theological Idea: The mission of Jesus advances by his Spirit's power in his people's witness.

Homiletical Idea: His mission continues.

Introduction:

READ Acts 1:1-5

Acts 1:1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach,

² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me;

⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

I. Acts is a gospel sequel. (1-5)

HI: His mission continues.

READ Acts 1:6-11

¹ This subject seems to reflect the entire passage. A second option was the subject: "Why does Jesus tell the disciples to wait in Jerusalem?" But that didn't seem to cover vv. 12-26 very well. Luke seems to be picking up the narrative for Theophilus to complete the story. He previously wrote about what Jesus "began to do and teach," and this account carries on the orderly accounting of what continued.

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,

¹¹ and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

II. The ascension is a mission prequel. (6-11)

John Calvin: "There are as many errors in the question as words."

Patrick Schreiner: "Power in Acts coincides with word-deed ministries that testify to life and hospitality found in Jesus and his new community."

John Stott: "Salvation is given to be shared"

READ Acts 1:12-26

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away.

¹³ And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James.

¹⁴ All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said,

¹⁶ "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.

¹⁷ For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry."

¹⁸ (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out.

¹⁹ And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

²⁰ "For it is written in the Book of Psalms, "'May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it'; and "'Let another take his office.'

²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us-- one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection."

²³ And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias.

²⁴ And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen

²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place."

²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

III. This selection is a prophetic inclination. (12-26)

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