



THE GLORY
OF THE STORY
ACTS 1:6-8



CONNECT

There are many components of a good story. What are some of them?

WORD

Acts 1:6-8 (ESV) - ⁶So 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. ⁸But 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."

WHAT

What does the Bible say?

If you have been at Broadview for any length of time at all, you have undoubtedly heard that we are an Acts 1:8 church. You may even be able to quote verse 8 by heart, but many of us do not think about the fact that Jesus gave us Acts 1:8 in response to a very specific question by his apostles.

The time had come for Jesus to end his physical ministry on earth and return to his Father. All of the apostles came together with Jesus on the top of the Mount of Olives. There, Jesus gives them final instructions for how they should behave and carry on after he is gone.

After all that the apostles have heard and seen while living in community with Jesus, they still don't understand exactly what Jesus is all about. They are still concerned with the earthly, political kingdom of Israel despite all that Jesus has taught them about the Kingdom of Heaven.

Their questions showed how little they understood what was happening. It's easy to be hard on them for asking the question. In fact, Calvin once said, "Marvelous is their rudeness, that when as they had been diligently instructed by the space of three whole years, they betray no less ignorance than if they had heard never a word. There are as many errors in this question as words."

It's easy to criticize them, but despite the fact that they were privileged to walk with Jesus in the flesh, they were still at a critical disadvantage compared to us. 1 Corinthians 2:12 says, "Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God." We have to remember that our understanding is made possible by someone that the apostles had not yet received. We have the Holy Spirit.

Jesus answers them that times and dates are not what is important. What's important is the gospel story. They are given the task of spreading this great and glorious story of what Jesus did to everyone in all the world.

2 This story that we are now privileged to be a part of is so special and so powerful that every part of the Trinity has glory in it. To have "glory" in the story means to have significance, weight, density, influence and beauty.

God the Father has glory in the story as the "Author." All that was done and will be done is happening in accordance with his will and his plan. The Holy Spirit has glory in the story as the "Helper." The Spirit empowers us to become a part of the story. The Lord Jesus has glory in the story as the "Hero." He is the main character, the protagonist. This is his story.

The disciples were worried and anxious about what the future would hold for them. Jesus' answer was the glorious story of the gospel. Now, when we are anxious and worried about what tomorrow will bring to us, our answer is still the same. We are to put the story first. We have glory in the story as members of the body of Christ, his church.

SO WHAT

What is the relevance to my life?

- What really stood out to you in today's message and lesson? What would you like to discuss further with the group?
- In what way is the Bible, a "story" about God?
- Read Daniel 2:21, Galatians 4:4 & Matthew 24:36. What do these verses add about the authority of God the Father as "author" of the story?
- What does Acts 1:8 say is the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer?
- Combine the truths of John 16:7 and Act 1:8. What is the Spirit's holy eternal passion?
- Combine the truth of John 16:14 and Acts 1:8. What does the Holy Spirit want to do in you?

- What is the role of the hero in a good story?
- In what ways does Jesus fit the role of “hero?”
- Use Philippians 2:6-10 to describe the heroism of Jesus.
- What does Acts 1:8 tell you about your role in the story?
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are calling you to cooperate with God in the work of the Great Commission. How is this fearful, adventurous, honoring and delightful?

NOW WHAT How do I apply the word to my life?



How does this lesson change the way you think about missions? Why did God choose this moment to bring this lesson to you?



What has God laid on your heart with this lesson? How does understanding the importance of the gospel story change your relationship with him?



What does God want you to do differently this week as a result of this lesson? How will you change the way you follow Acts 1:8?

How can we help you and hold you accountable? How can we pray for you? What can we do to show our love for you this week? Who do you know that needs to hear this lesson? Who can you share it with?

