

## 1. Introduction:

- Acts is all done. Wasn't it a great book?!
- The 4 Gospels detail Jesus' life on earth from birth to death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. Acts picks up the story from Jesus' ascension and covers the next 30+ years from the year AD 30-62.
- The Gospels end with... and Acts starts with... Jesus' **great commission** before ascending to heaven.

### Acts 1:8

- You will be my witnesses... in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth.

### Matthew 28:18-20

- Go and make disciples of all nations, baptize, teach...
- Acts is the account of how the disciples and the early **Church** responded to that great commission!

## 2. The early Church's response to the Great Commission that Jesus gave:

- The early Church **obeyed** the Great Commission!
  - Peter preached the Gospel in Jerusalem that very first day.

### Acts 2:41

- **3,000** people believed it and were added to the church in **Jerusalem!**
- The Gospel being preached in Jerusalem and the thousands believing is recorded in Acts 2-7.

### Acts 8:1-8

- Due to persecution, the believers from Jerusalem were scattered through the regions of **Judea** and **Samaria**. (Acts 8-12)
- These scattered believers preached the **Good News** about Jesus wherever they went.

**Acts 13:1-3**

- The rest of Acts, chapters 13-28, mainly covers Paul preaching the Gospel on his 3 missionary journeys and in Rome. The church was spread to the **ends of the earth!**
- The early Church made **disciples**.
  - A disciple is not merely a believer in Jesus, but a maturing **follower** of Jesus.

**Acts 20:16-31**

- At the end of his 3rd missionary journey, Paul stopped to see the elders of the church in Ephesus. Listen to his love for the Lord and also his love and concern for those leaders he disciplined.
- The early Church endured persecution and suffering with **joy**.
  - In 1 generation, 10's of thousands (or more!) believed the **Gospel** message and were rescued from the penalty of their sin in hell! And millions since then, including those of us who have also believed the Gospel.

**Acts 5:41-42**

- They experienced persecution and suffering, yet were fulfilled and joyful.

**3. Application:**

- The early Church obeyed the Great Commission and was a witness for Jesus. How are we doing at that?
- The early church made disciples. How's disciple-making going for you?
- The early Church endured persecution and suffering with joy. Are you ready for that?