

Jesus gives new INFORMATION

The book of Luke (c. 58 AD) ends with Jesus showing himself alive to his disciples and helping them understand what it meant to be his follower after his resurrection (Luke 24:44-46). The ‘Acts of the Apostles’ (c. 60 AD) was written later by Luke as an extension of his gospel to show how the Gospel began to change the world. *Sometimes the smallest seeds grow into the greatest trees!* While no one could fully comprehend the plan of God where Jesus would live a perfect life, die, resurrect, and send the Holy Spirit to help believers live for God, those who trusted God were willing to accept it. New information from God should find a willing heart from believers. *When God surprises you, don't be surprised!*

Jesus gives a new MISSION

After Jesus met the disciples in Galilee, they returned to Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost (John 21:1). Jesus met them there, and as they went to the Mount of Olives, they asked if he was now going to start the Messianic kingdom. *Where the King is, is where the Kingdom is* (Mark 1:15; Luke 17:20, 21)! As access to the kingdom is belief, this means God's kingdom is both spiritual now and physical later (Dan. 2:44; Zech. 14:3-5, 9; Luke 19:11; John 3:3; Rev. 7:1-4, 9, 10; 11:15; 19:14-21). Jesus said the physical kingdom will happen in God's timing, but before that, they have a spiritual mission. The Apostles were to start in Jerusalem and go out to the whole world preaching the Gospel. *Believers in the Kingdom are to invite others to come meet the King* (Matt. 28:18-20; Luke 24:47)!

Jesus gives a new REPLACEMENT

Judas was chosen at the beginning of Jesus' ministry as one of his 12 disciples (Luke 6:13). Judas followed Jesus, worshipped him, and had his power to preach, minister, and perform miracles (Matt. 14:33; Mark 6:7-13). But he chose to act on a poisoned mind by Satan and was disqualified and removed from his office by God. *Sometimes God cuts out the cancer to make room to bless others!* Needing to fill the 12th position, they put two quality men forward and cast lots to eliminate prejudice. God allowed the lot to fall for Matthias (meaning ‘gift of God’) and he stepped into the vacant position. *The most important ability is availability!*