

**Main Idea:** The gospel is changing the whole world; let it change you!

**Key Application:** Get baptized

**Key Verses:** Acts 1:8 & 2:38

### Game Changers in World History

- Agriculture—Moved us from hunter-gatherers to stationary culture
- Printing Press—Books can be created for all to read, which drove the literacy movement
- Mass Production of Model T—Technology affordable for everyone
- iPhone—Puts amazing informational power into your hand at a moment's notice
- Right now, most ever—Virtual Reality, Biogenetic Engineering, Social Media, 3D Printing—not too far from being able to 3D print organs and even bones!
- **Flash-Matic**—Revolutionized TV watching (my dad—I have a remote. Three. Voice-activated—Mark—go turn up the volume)

**Story:** The Book of Acts is the book on how the game was changed in the spiritual world. Today, we are going to look at three massive game changers that happened in two chapters. Then we are going to invite you to a game-changing decision for yourself—baptism. There are some people who came today ready to be baptized, and others who, I pray, will make your decision on the spot today. You will trust and obey Jesus to the full!

Acts is about the launch of the early Church. Picture the scene: Jesus has died and risen. He has now made eight known appearances and has additionally spent forty days with the disciples teaching them about the kingdom of God. He is just about to go up on this big honkin' cloud to be with the Father and he has one set of last words to give them. Our first game-changer.

Quiz: What were Jesus' last words to his disciples before he ascended into heaven?

**Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."**

- The Spirit, the Church and the World—three things that the book of Acts is all about
- Geographic, concentric circles
- Outline of the book of Acts—Acts 1–7, 8–10, 11–28
  - Also Peter, Phillip, and Paul
- CCC Logo—This is how we see ministry!
- Beyond Ourselves, Beyond Our Walls, Beyond Our Borders
  - Beyond Ourselves—Every person is on mission to reach one more. We are all living the fully surrendered beyond belief life that becomes super attractive to the people around us.

- Beyond Our Walls—This is why we plant churches—eight in the last ten years, such as Mission and Citylight KC and Providence. We are not just thinking about us, we are thinking about new expressions of the gospel to reach new groups of people. We are thinking about our grandchildren and people who have not yet been born. We believe that this city is a trust from God to us and other Bible-teaching churches. This is why we serve in transforming Village One for the sake of the gospel. This is why we have the Porch for counselors and seminary and outreach organizations. This is why we have a residency program—to raise up new workers for the church and the city! We are just obeying Jesus in our Judea and Samaria.
- Beyond Our Walls—And we reach people, plant churches, show compassion, and create movements of Jesus followers to the furthest ends of the earth. This is why we are supporting hundreds of missionaries to the darkest nations through the Great Commission Fund. This is why we are partnering with church planters in Cuba. This is why we have a hospital and radio stations in West Africa. This is why we are bringing mercy to victims of sex trafficking in Africa. It is simply because Jesus said we are to be his witnesses—in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth!
- **CMA Mission Statement—We are a Christ-centered, Acts 1:8 family**
  - Isn't that good? Fourfold gospel—Christ-centered
  - Acts 1:8—We just talked about it
  - Family—Not an organization or denomination or hierarchy—We are a family
- Acts 1:8 is a big deal for all of those reasons. It is also important that this command comes BEFORE the Church begins, because the Church begins around the mission. This is something that is debated in high-falutin' scholarly circles. Does missiology precede ecclesiology or vice versa?

Missiology precedes ecclesiology OR

The Church exists for the mission, not vice versa

Personally: We are contributors, not consumers

Why are we always pressing our congregation to mission? Because: Jesus was! And we are becoming like him.

Challenge: Do you think on all three levels? Christians often make the mistake one of two ways. Either: *I am willing to make a difference here at home, but totally forget about what may be happening on the other side of the world* OR *I cut a check for missions, pray for the missionaries, but I am afraid to walk across the street and talk to my neighbor.* The mission of Jesus is here, there, and everywhere. How do I reach MY Jerusalem? MY Judea/Samaria? The ends of the earth? What is my role? As a church, how can we be more like Jesus' last words?

### **Pentecost**

**Acts 1:13—When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.**

### [Upper Room Pic]

Acts 2:1–13—When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

Likely that this happened just blocks away from the upper room.

- 1) It was the closest gathering place to the upper room (pictures of model of Jerusalem).
- 2) In the mountains, there is really no place to baptize—let alone baptize 3000 people! But on the southern steps, there were ritual baths called mikvahs (pictures of mikvahs).

“In the last days, God says,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your young men will see visions,  
your old men will dream dreams.  
Even on my servants, both men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,  
and they will prophesy

- It was told from the prophets that this day would come—Holy Spirit visitation and prophecy
- Sons and daughters, both men and women—double-emphasized that this movement is for ALL people. Maybe Peter felt like he needed to explain, “How in the world are WOMEN filled with the Holy Spirit? Fire on their heads? Speaking in languages? Preaching on the street corner?”
- Later, Peter explained where all of their miracle working power came from—the Spirit living in them. This is the game-changer—the Spirit of God is now available in ordinary men and women to do his miracle-working power. And it all came through Jesus.
- In the Old Testament, the Spirit would land on certain specific leaders for a specific time frame. But in Acts, he lives in every believer! Every one!

“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was

handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him."

- That's the message we are still taking around the world—Jesus did miracles, you put him to death, God raised him from the dead, and now death is defeated.
- Challenge—Do you invite the power of the Holy Spirit? Are you willing to speak up? Can you communicate when you need to? Friends— the game-changer is that you don't have to do this alone or by your own power. You have supernatural-resurrection-Holy-Spirit energy inside of you to be all God wants you to be AND to carry his message!

### Acts 2:38

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

**Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."**

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

A man who was robbing a house was caught by the old lady who lived there. When she saw him, she yelled "Stop, Thief—Acts 2:38!" (Which says, "Repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins,") hoping it would impact him. To her shock, the burglar stopped in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done. As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar, "Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell a scripture to you." "Scripture?" replied the burglar. "She said she had an ax and two 38s!"

Story of LeTroy Jackson. Made me research...

- Baptism does not save you, but it is a big deal—representing cleansing, death and resurrection, and public proclamation.
- Baptism is for believers, not infants.
- Baptism means "to immerse." Water does not save—Jesus does. Baptism does not carry salvation, but it sure does symbolize it. It is the first step of every believer. If you have not done it, but you believe in Jesus—you need to.
- In the Bible, baptism services were not planned, but happened in the moment. 3000 people without elder interviews or internet forms. They just sensed that God was alive and at work and they wanted to obey him. That is why we feel great about doing this today. Sometimes the Spirit just moves and maybe he is moving in you right now. You know that you are a prime candidate and you need to do this. David Plathe—on the spot!

## Music Begins Here

Get baptized—You have to agree with Peter’s message

- Jesus is the miracle-working son of God, died for your sins, raised from the dead
- This is what you are being baptized into
- Don’t make a mockery of baptism if this is not true for you
- You need to be at least twelve years old—why? Repent! Faith! Belief! These are impossible for someone who is too young. By 12, you can make decision independent of parents’ intent. You can truly exercise faith and truly repent.
- By the way, it’s never too late—there is a 92-year-old getting baptized today!

What you don’t need:

- A set of clothes—We’ve got some! I know it’s cold, so you can dry off before you go.
- To be sin-free—God starts where you are, not where you are going!
- Perfect theology—Baptism happens at the beginning of your life in Christ and you learn later.
- To look good in front of people—Some are worried about hair, makeup, etc. Look, nobody cares how beautiful you are on your best day or about your runny mascara. Jesus hung naked on a cross for you. You can be wet in front of people for him.
- Some of you are embarrassed because you have been around a while and were never baptized. C’mon! We want you! We won’t judge you... get in the pool. Right, CCC?

So, it’s time to make a decision. Will you get baptized? Stand together.

- Gym—you will get instructions there
- Worship Center—Go to the back and under the staircase. There will be people there waiting to take you to dressing rooms, answer questions, and have a three-minute conversation about faith in Jesus.
- I want to pray for you, then let you go. Some of you are having the obedience battle right now—Satan does not want you to go public with your faith. He is telling you all the reasons that you can’t. I am saying you can... YOU CAN! You have to listen for God’s prompting and if he is stirring up something in you, then listen and go forward.
- Pray!

