

Acts #2 (5.3.20) # 20033

Acts Chapter 1

Faithful Waiting

I. Review of Last Week: What is God doing in the world? Jesus tells us:

A. Creating a new community. Matt. 16:16-18.

1. Built upon the confession of Him as Son of God and Messiah.

B. Bringing a New Message -- the Gospel. Luke 24:44-49

1. Repentance and forgiveness are in His name.

C. Sending a new life -- His Spirit to fill His people. Jn. 14:16-20

1. He had promised that they would not be alone or on their own in serving Him.

D. Acts is the account of how all of this started...

II. Acts 1. The whole chapter. *Three crucial things to know if you come to God.*

A. The Resurrection is a certainty. 1-5

1. These people were not gullible. It took a long time to prove resurrection. But once they got it, it changed their entire worldview and life.
2. No way to understand the gospel without this worldview. Luke 24:44-47

B. The Mission is the priority. 6-11

1. The Spirit will do it through the Christians.
2. The Christians need to keep their heads in the game. (not speculate)

C. The Apostles are the authority. 12-26 *Why take the time to replace Judas?*

1. The Apostles are the voice of Jesus. (Red-letter NT?)
2. And there needed to be 12 (corresponding to the 12 tribes) Lk.22:28-30
3. Probably because Jesus taught them this during the 40 days (1:3)

D. *If we fail to grasp one or more of these realities, they will stumble with the Lord instead of walking with Him.*

III. Up close on Acts 1:12-26. What to do in the “in-between” times? (much of life)

A. They waited together. 12-15. But not always in the same room Lk.24:53.

1. A diverse group with a unified purpose. 120 of them: (in the temple, too.)

- a) 2 sets of brothers (James & John; Peter & Andrew)
- b) A set of opposites: A tax collector (Matthew) and a Zealot (Simon)?
- c) Various Women. Lk. 8:2-3 (sisters among brothers Mk.3:33-35)
 - (1) They followed Jesus, supported him from their finances.
 - (a) Magdalene, 7 demons!
 - (b) Joanna, wife of Chudza, Herod Antipas' Chief of Staff!
 - (2) They were present at the cross. Lk. 23:49; Jn. 19:25
 - (3) They prepared for His burial. Lk. 23:55-56, 24:1
 - (4) They were the first to see evidence of the resurrection. Lk. 24:9-10
- d) And Mary Jesus' mother and his brothers. Jn. 7:1-5; Mk.3:21.
 - (1) The conversion of these, proof of Jesus resurrection. 1 Cor. 15:7
 - (2) James, Joseph, Simon, Judas (Jude).
 - (a) James, leader of Jerusalem Church, wrote James
 - (b) Jude is probably the author of the Letter of Jude

B. They Prayed confidently...

1. United Prayer: praying in a group, out loud. A skill you should learn.
 - a) homothumadon = with one mind, unanimously, in agreement, etc.,
 - b) Used 10 times by Luke (and only once else)
2. Persistent Prayer. Not 24/7, but regularly, like having meals.
 - a) “continually” proskarterew = to be devoted to something, keep doing it.
3. *Prayer is an end in itself. Not just an opener for some “event”.*

C. And they did what was right in front of them._15-26

1. Five principles for guidance
 - a) Inspired Scripture: 16-20. Steeped in God's wisdom
 - (1) Peter's understanding of Scripture, gotten directly from Jesus.
 - (2) Inspiration: Scripture is God's Voice. 2 Tim.3:16
 - (a) *The Holy Spirit through the mouth of David*
 - (b) Psalm 69:25 quoted often in the NT. Messianic Psalm.
 - (c) Psalm 109:8.
 - b) Redeemed Reason: 22. We need another official witness.
 - (1) Qualifications: Paul fit these in principle, even though he was not a disciple when Jesus was baptized. See Gal.1:11-2:10; 1 Cor. 15:1-11; 2 Cor.11:2:11-13; 2 Pet.3:15-16.
 - (a) Trained by Jesus personally.
 - (b) Eye-witness to the resurrected Lord.
 - c) Legitimate Leadership. Peter stood up...15
 - (1) Compliance with legitimate leadership is a spiritual virtue. Titus 3:1; Heb.13:17; 1 Thess.5:12.
 - (2) God often guides simply through leaders, as a group or as individuals.
 - d) Practical Providence: 20
 - (1) They assumed that Judas was part of God's plan. 20-21
 - (a) God makes room for unbelief and evil in his plans? Acts 2:23
 - (2) They cast lots. Prov. 16:33
 - (3) Lots? This is a very intense form of providence used in the OT.
 - (4) After Pentecost the guidance becomes discernment (individual and corporate) as the Spirit speaks through scripture, other Christians (Acts 15), and direct interaction (Acts 16:6-10; 18:9-10)
 - e) Christian Prayer: Covenant Spirit prayer in Jesus' name. Rom.8:26
 - (1) Lord, knower of hearts lit. "heart-knower"
 - (2) Discernment often comes in prayer.

IV. Four things to remember about walking with the Lord.

A. Waiting happens, *not because of delay*, but because of timing.

1. Waiting is a spiritual skill! We learn it by practice. Psalms are filled with waiting on the Lord. Ps.27:14; 62:5; 130:5
2. Jesus said to wait. There is a time to wait for what only God can and will supply.

B. Unity comes, *not from focusing on unity*, but from focusing on Jesus and the mission.

1. The unity of prayer was because these people trusted Jesus and Scripture.
 - a) They took Jesus at His word and prayed in accordance with His will. 4:23-31
2. *The best way to promote unity is to teach the Scripture as focused on the gospel, and promote the gospel around the world. Preach and teach Jesus and His mission.*

C. Progress occurs, *not by knowing everything about the future*, but by doing what is right in this moment. (1:7)

1. In our current crisis (COVID) there is much nervous speculation about "what God is doing." *But there are things we can do, that perhaps we have overlooked.*
2. Doesn't seem flashy or super productive right now, but prepares for future.
3. Sometimes you don't know where this is going, but you just have to respond today. That's OK.

D. Peace come, *not because we understand all the details*, but because we trust the Lord with them. Phil 4:4-7

1. Peace that does not come from understanding, but transcends it because we trust the hand of God in our lives.