

ONE message. people. mission.



Making Your Life Count

Acts 1:1-26

- **Introduction to Acts**
 - Written 62-64AD by Luke: Author/Doctor/Theologian/Missionary: Colossians 4.14
 - Luke 1.1-4 Purpose of writing
 - Type of Literature: Narrative
 - Talking to eyewitnesses and ministers of the word
 - Placement between Gospels and Epistles makes it a Bridge of history of how the Gospel advanced
 - 1st Volume (Luke): Told all Jesus did personally/publically on earth as He taught what he accomplished by a bloody cross and an empty tomb
 - 2nd Volume (Acts): Writes of ministry from heaven exercised through the Holy Spirit by apostles
- **Believe the Gospel and receive the power of the Holy Spirit**
 - Jesus presented alive after sufferings: Sufferings were his scourging and sufferings on Cross, His death, and then his being alive is His triumph over said sufferings by the resurrection from the dead
 - Jesus living the sinless life and taking the punishment for our sin makes it possible to have sinners be reconciled to their God
 - Jesus taught on Kingdom of God: Told them to wait for the Spirit that was foretold
 - Kingdom is not a geopolitical kingdom (vs. 6)
 - Power of the Spirit: Its ability to regenerate, to cleanse the sinful heart
 - Ezekiel 11.19-20
- **You must believe the one true Gospel**
 - Apostle: Messenger of the King
 - Jesus establishing a New Kingdom
 - Old Covenant people were established with 12 tribes
 - New Covenant Kingdom that would not fail likewise began w/ 12 people
 - Judas replaced because of betrayal, not bc he died
 - Three qualifications of what it means to be an apostle: (seen in their replacing Judas)
 - Had to have been with Jesus during time on earth (Acts 1.21-22)
 - Had to be witnesses to resurrection (vs. 22)
 - Had to be appointed by the Lord (vs. 24)
 - Apostles had been taught and made clear what the message was to carry to the world
 - Confession of Peter was “keys of the Kingdom” to carry (Matt. 16.16-20)
 - Apostles handled the “keys” and were able to confirm the Gospel as it advanced
 - Christ is clearly interested in a pure Gospel, not what we want to believe about Christ

- **Christ's Kingdom is for the World**

- Acts 1:8: Table of contents to book of Acts
- God wants a people for Himself from the beginning and now because of the work of Christ, it is possible for God to have that people through his obedience in death, burial, and resurrection for sinners
 - Christ previously said to be quiet, now He wants it to advance b/c the Good news is complete

Questions

Discussion Starter: Most people get excited about making their lives count for something larger than themselves...why?

Transition: Here in Acts 1 we see the best way to make your life count is by plugging your story into God's overarching story to make a name for himself.

1. What is the purpose of this book? Why is Luke writing this? What is he trying to communicate?
2. What is significant about the word "began" in vs. 1? How should we understand the purposes of Christ in life and ministry from this?
3. What does "baptism by the Holy Spirit" mean when compared to the baptism of John?
4. What is so "powerful" about the Holy Spirit that it needs to be waited on and called powerful?
5. How do we live in the "power of the Holy Spirit" in each day?
6. Why is Christ so interested in these 12 apostles? Why are they so significant in this book?
7. What should we learn about the importance of fighting for the purity of the Gospel?
8. How can we be sure we have the "keys to the Kingdom?" (Matt. 16.16-20)
9. Why is Christ so interested in advancing this Gospel into all the world?
10. Where is your struggle in advancing this message?

Accountability Question: Are there areas of sin in your life that you need to invite the Holy Spirit to help you defeat with His power?