



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion: The Acts of the Apostles

Wednesdays
7.30-8.30PM

Some questions to guide your thoughts as you meditate on Acts 1 ... read before Wednesday

1. Who was the author of Acts? (verses 1-2)
2. What is the Kingdom of God? (verse 3)
3. What is the main mission? How will it be accomplished? Why do we need the Holy Spirit (Verses 6-8)
4. How did the Lord leave? How will He return? What are the similarities (verses 9-11)
5. What was the purpose of the first gathering of disciples? What qualified Joseph & Matthais to be disciples? Was selecting using lots biblical? (verses 12-26)
6. Important Themes in the book of Acts, Important Characters, and Lessons learned
(this is work-in-progress question and we can continue to build the list as we meditate on the book)

Chapter 1

1. Who was the author of Acts? (verses 1-2)

1. Who was the author of Acts (verse 1,2)

- Hint: Theophilus (Luke 1:1-4)
- Acts continues where Luke left on in chapter 24 ...
 - ministry of Jesus for 40-days before ascension (Acts 1), and
 - continuing of work through the apostles (rest of Acts)
- LUKE is the author
 - Physician, companion of Paul (Colossians 4:14, II Timothy 4:11, Philemon 24)
- Ministry of Jesus:
 - Included both doing + teaching (v.1) and Relied on the Holy spirit (v.2)

2. What is the Kingdom of God? (verse 3)

To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

- We see physical evidence of Resurrection; when he rose from the grave, no one saw.
- Focus of His teaching: Kingdom of God (or Kingdom of Heaven)
- Kingdom: Present and Future

Kingdom of God: FUTURE

- Examples of Future reference
 - Lord's Prayer (Mathew 6:10 .. Thy Kingdom come); Last Supper (Mark 14:25)
 - Final Judgement (Mathew 7:21-23, Mathew 25:34 (31-46, Sheep & goats), Luke 13:22-30)
 - **Future**: Literal kingdom to be established later in Jerusalem for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:4), everlasting Kingdom (II Peter 1:11)

Kingdom of God: TODAY

- Today the kingdom is an invisible kingdom
- It represents the Kingship of Lord over His people
- It represents Redeemed people (Colossians 1:13 ... translated from darkness into the Kingdom of His dear son) (John 3:3, John 3:5)
- **Today**: It is within us (Luke 17:21 ... Kingdom of God is within you)

3. What are they told to wait for?, what is the the main mission?, how will it be accomplished? Why do we need the Holy Spirit? (Verses 4-8)

- Waiting: Verses 4
- Types of Baptism: Verses 5
- Mission: Verses 6-8

What are they told to wait for?, Types of Baptism (4-5)

- Wait for Source of Power: Holy Spirit (v.4)
 - Jesus crucified in Jerusalem; Holy spirit released in Jerusalem
- Baptism (v.5)
 - By Water done by John (external)
 - By Holy spirit (internal) (prophesied in Joel 2:28)
 - We do not need baptism to receive the holy spirit; holy spirit given when we are born again
- Baptism by fire (Matthew 3:11,12; Luke 3:16, 17) ... represents future judgement for unbelievers

What is the Mission? Why do we need the Holy Spirit

- Verses 6/7: Restoration of Kingdom (not now) rather focus on current mission
- Current mission: Be witnesses through the power of the Holy Spirit
- Need Holy Spirit for: Boldness, Clarity, Burden for the lost (Cannot witness without the holy spirit)
- Scope of the Mission: Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, ends of the Earth

4. How did the Lord leave? How will He return? What are the similarities (verses 9-11)

- He went physically/visibly, so He will return in physically/visibly (Malachi 3:1, Matthew 24:30, I Thessalonians 4:16, Revelation 1:7)
- Ascended from Mount olives, will descend in Mount Olives (Zechariah 14:4)
- Went on His own in glory and power , will return on His own in glory and power

5. What was the purpose of the first gathering of disciples? What qualified Joseph & Matthais to be disciples? Was selecting using lots biblical? (verses 12-26)

- 11 disciples (v.13) continued in Fellowship & Prayer (v.14) 120 present (v.15)
- First Decision: Replacement for Judas
 - Judas Death: Fulfillment of scriptures;
 - place called 'field of blood' ... the blood of Judas + price paid through the betrayal money for Jesus

What qualified Joseph & Matthais to be disciples? Was selecting using lots biblical? (verses 12-26)

- Two Qualities (v. 21/22)
 - (1) Part of 3 ½ year ministry, (2) Witness to Resurrection
- Two Nominations (v.23)
 - Joseph and Matthias
- After prayer + lots, Matthias chosen (v.24-26)
 - Lots (Proverbs 16:33, Jonah 1:7)
 - How many times Matthias mentioned after Acts 1?

Important themes/moral lessons/application

REVELATION + **A**PPPLICATION = **T**RANSFORMATION

Acts 1

- Waiting for Holy Spirit
- Witnessing in the Power of the Holy Spirit



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