

Study of Acts

Lesson 1

Acts Chapter 1

1. Believed to be written by Luke, Luke was a physician (Colossians refers to him as a healer), follower of Jesus but never met Jesus, also wrote the book of Luke and accounts the life of Jesus, from not only what he heard about the life of Jesus but through divine inspiration.
 - a. Book of Luke tells the story of Jesus life on earth. It is one of 3 Synoptic gospels, along with Matthew, Mark all meaning same view or portrait of Jesus.
 - b. Chapter 1 vs 1 of Acts, refers to his first book.
 - c. Book of Acts picks up where Luke ends and tells the story of the start of the early church after the death and resurrection of Christ, serves as a historical document, (accounts Paul's conversion and missionary journeys, early church meetings, and other examples of other early Christ followers and their stories) and to emphasize the importance of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christians. Chapter 1:
 - i. Luke 24 and Acts 1:1 to verse 12 are very similar in content
 - ii. Accounts resurrection of Christ vs 3 also in Luke 24
 - iii. Accounts his appearance to the apostles and his ascension vs 6-11 also in Luke 24
 - iv. Acts then accounts the replacement of Judas with Matthias vs 12-26
 - v. Outlines to the church that we CAN and SHOULD live in the footsteps of Jesus and that we have the power through the Holy Spirit to DO and TEACH the things he did while He was on the earth. Acts is all about Holy, Courageous and Power infused living through the help of the Holy Spirit
 - d. We see that both Luke and Acts were written to Theophilus, most likely NOT a man's (or woman's) name but rather an honorary title in Rome and Jew era meaning friend of God, or beloved by God. Could have been even a group of people. Luke 1:1-4, in Acts 1, Luke refers to this, Acts 1:1-2
2. Through the book of Acts, we will the Holy Spirit at work in several ways. While we study this book, I would encourage you to keep a log of the many ways we will see him at work. Hebrews 13:8 says Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever and I believe what we will see in our study of the book of Acts is that the Holy Spirit is ready, willing and able to work in the same manner today as he did in the early church.
3. Jesus example of following the Holy Spirit
 - a. Luke chapter 4 Jesus follows the Holy Spirit
 - i. Filled with the Holy Spirit he endured testing vs 1-13
 - ii. Jesus filled with the Holy Spirit declared who he was in the synagogue and declared that the Spirit of God was on him and what his purpose was. Vs18-19
 - b. Ultimate trust as He followed the leading of the Holy Spirit even to the cross.
 - i. Luke 22:39-44 He could have only done what he did through the obedience of the Holy Spirit and following his leading. Not my will, but yours...

4. We see in Acts 1 vs 4-5, Jesus tells the apostles, do not leave Jerusalem until the father sends the gift he promised.
 - a. OT promises of the Holy Spirit in Isaiah 44:3 and Joel 2:28 and Jesus promised of it in the NT (Acts and Luke document this)
 - b. We see this promise fulfilled on the day of Pentecost and we will talk more about that in the next chapter.
5. EXAMPLE: Right off the bat in Acts we see the first account in the choosing of Mathias. It gives us a powerful example of how the Holy Spirit works and how we can rely on the Holy Spirits leading in our own practical decision making.
 - a. Read vs 12-14 After Christ's ascension, after the dust settled, after Judas commits suicide. Imagine how they were feeling.... a lot has gone down in the last few days. Jesus death, resurrection, him appearing to them and disappearing, his final instructions and ascension to heaven etc. think about how the US felt after MLK Jr was assassinated. People were frightened, unsure, trying to do their best to support and encourage one another even in their own fear.
 - b. Read vs 15-20 Peter being a leader addresses the crowd of believers, I believe people in that day looked to them for some guidance because they spent the most time with Jesus, they had INFLUENCE, like pastor Joseph spoke about on Sunday. Peter begins to recant the ending of Judas life and he speaks of the Holy Spirit and how he spoke through King David in the OT, predicting the betrayal of Judas vs 20 (Jesus quotes Psalm 41:9 at the last supper John 13:18-19) The apostles are looking to find another to help carry on the ministry of spreading the Gospel of Jesus
 - c. It is at this point in vs 21 that he states they must choose a replacement from the "men who were with us the entire time" So they would choose a faithful follower and one who witnessed the resurrection (his qualifications). Peter refers to the prophecy in Psalms in Vs 21 as to saying someone must take his position. Almost as that had to happen before the promise of the Holy Spirit was fulfilled. So, they used the word and their brains, and nominated 2, Joseph called Barsabbas and Matthias.
 - d. Once they decided to follow the word in replacing Judas, and made these nominations using their brains, then they made the choice to put it in the Lords hands and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. Vs. 24 says they prayed this prayer...
 - e. Then they cast lots, like flipping a coin. Vs 26. Now if this scripture had only said they cast lots but didn't pray first and ask the lord to choose, I would be worried they weren't being led by the spirit, but they were asking the Holy Spirit to pick in this scripture.
6. Acts Chapter 2 begins telling accounts the promise of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit being fulfilled. We will get into that in our next study.

JOHN 16:13 WHEN THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH COMES, HE WILL GUIDE YOU IN TO ALL TRUTH!