



Series Title: Courageous New Beginnings
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How the Disciples Started Over in Acts

February 5, 2025

Series Summary:

- The Book of Acts showcases how the disciples overcame the devastating loss of Jesus, centralized their focus, and courageously built the early church. Instead of succumbing to overwhelming sorrow “something Paul warned against in 2 Corinthians 2:7 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13” they moved forward with faith, vision, and bold action. This series explores four key stages of their journey.

Part 1: They Embraced the Day Everything Changed

Acts 1:6-11

A. They had to adjust their timing and expectations

- 6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, “**Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?**”

B. They had to embrace seasons of ignorance

- 7 He said to them: “**It is not for you to know** the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. **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.”

C. They had to embrace seasons of isolation

- 9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. 10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? **This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.**”

Chapter Two: They Embraced the Day Everything Felt Different
(Acts 2:1-18)

1. They heard and felt the Spirit (Focus on the filling not just the tongues)

- 1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 **Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.** 3 and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

2. They all came from a variety of cultural backgrounds

- 5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem **God-fearing Jews** from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because **each one heard their own language** being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: **“Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans?”**

3. They all worshipped God in their own language (They did not fully understand v12)

- 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” 12 **Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”**

4. They were all invited despite their gender, age, or social status

- 17 “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. 18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

Discussion:

1. Why is it so hard for some ministries to embrace everyone? (Look at the DEI Discussion)
2. Why do we struggle with the mixing of cultures (Look at our Immigration Issues)
3. Why do we struggle with gender biases (Look at the previous Election Debate)

Next Time: Chapter Three “Embracing the Miraculous” (Can You?)