



The Courageous New Beginnings
Taught by Dr. Ricky Temple

Date: May 7, 2025

Launch Texts: Acts 1:1-5

Part One:

Series Title: Courageous New Beginnings

1. How the Disciples Started Over in Acts

2. 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.
 - A. They had to adjust their timing and expectations (Acts 1:6-11)**
 - B. They had to embrace seasons of ignorance (v7 ”It is not for you to know the times...”)**
 - C. They had to embrace seasons of isolation (v9-11)**
 - D. They were filled with the Spirit and started their missionary journey (Acts 2:1-18)**

Parts 2 and 3

Embracing the Possibility of a Miraculous Future

- 1. They embraced the miraculous healing of the man at the gate (Acts 3-4)**
- 2. They embraced new leadership (Peter, Stephen, and Saul (Acts 6-9)**
 - A. Saul’s quick rise to great influence**
 - B. Peter’s slow transition out of influence (Acts 10-15)**

End of Review

Conclusion: Part Four

Chapters Ten - Fifteen: They Embraced a New Commitment to **Inclusion**

Chapters Sixteen -Twenty-Eight: They Embraced the Call to **Outreach** (“Go Into All the World”)

Theme: God’s grace extends to all people, not just Jews. The early church faced a pivotal challenge—should Gentiles be welcomed as full members of the faith without adopting Jewish customs? Through visions, testimonies, and the leadership of the apostles, they embraced a new inclusive vision of God’s kingdom.

- Peter’s vision (Acts 10): A sheet of unclean animals symbolizes that no person is unclean to God.
- Cornelius ’conversion: A Roman centurion receives the Holy Spirit before baptism, proving God’s acceptance (Acts 10–11).
- Peter defends Gentile inclusion to Jewish believers in Jerusalem (Acts 11:1–18).
- Antioch becomes the first multi-ethnic church (Acts 11:19–26), where believers are first called Christians.
- The Jerusalem Council (Acts 15): Key debate—Do Gentile converts need to be circumcised and follow the Law of Moses?
- Paul, Barnabas, Peter, and James affirm salvation by grace, not by law. Gentiles are welcomed without becoming Jewish.
- Key takeaway: Inclusion wasn’t just kindness—it was a theological breakthrough rooted in divine revelation.

Main Characters:

- Peter – Receives vision and opens the door to Gentile inclusion.
- Cornelius – Roman centurion, first Gentile convert filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Paul & Barnabas – Share testimony of Gentile conversions and miracles.
- James (brother of Jesus) – Leader of the Jerusalem church who offers the final judgment at the Council.

Chapters 16–28: They Embraced the Call to Outreach (“Go Into All the World”)



Theme: The church goes global. Paul and his companions bring the gospel across cultures and continents. This section captures the expansion of Christianity from the Middle East into Europe and into the heart of the Roman Empire.

- Paul travels to urban centers, preaches in synagogues and marketplaces, and plants diverse churches.
- The gospel reaches Lydia in Philippi, Greeks in Athens, and governors in Caesarea.
- Paul's trials are used as platforms for proclaiming Christ to powerful audiences.
- Acts ends with Paul under house arrest in Rome—preaching freely, symbolizing that the mission is ongoing.

Note: Paul's Rented House (WHERE DID HE GET MONEY?)

- 30 For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. 31 He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance! **(Acts 28:30-31)**
- **He used this time to write several of his epistles including Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon"**

Main Characters:

- Paul – Apostle to the Gentiles, primary missionary and church planter.
- Silas – Paul's main companion on the second journey.
- Timothy – A young disciple who joins Paul in Lystra and becomes a close protégé.
- Luke – Author of Acts, joins Paul's journey and documents the events firsthand.
- Lydia – First European convert, a businesswoman in Philippi.
- Festus, Felix, Agrippa – Roman officials who hear Paul's defense.

Paul's Three Missionary Journeys

1. First Journey (Acts 13–14)

- Locations: Cyprus, Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe
- Main Accomplishment: Preached to Gentiles; established first Gentile churches



- Companions: Barnabas and John Mark (John Mark left partway through)

2. Second Journey (Acts 15:36–18:22)

- Locations: Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, Corinth, Ephesus
- Main Accomplishment: Expanded into Europe; established strong urban churches
- Companions: Silas, Timothy, and later Luke joins

3. Third Journey (Acts 18:23–21:14)

- Locations: Ephesus, Macedonia, Greece, Troas, Miletus, Jerusalem
- Main Accomplishment: Strengthened existing churches; deep teaching and leadership development
- Companions: Timothy, Luke, and others mentioned along the way

Summary: Five Major Accomplishments In Paul's Missionary Journeys

- Here are five major accomplishments from Paul's three missionary journeys, each showing a key contribution to the spread and strengthening of early Christianity:

Five Major Accomplishments In Paul's Missionary Journeys

1. Planted Churches Across the Roman Empire

- Where: Antioch, Lystra, Iconium, Philippi, Thessalonica, Corinth, Ephesus, and more
- Impact: Created a lasting network of Christian communities that became hubs for evangelism and discipleship
- Reference: Acts 13–21

2. Opened the Gospel to the Gentiles

- Key Event: Boldly declared Gentiles could be saved without becoming Jews
- Impact: Broke cultural and religious barriers, expanding Christianity beyond Jewish roots
- Reference: Acts 13:46, Acts 15 (Jerusalem Council)

3. Developed and Mentored Church Leaders

- Key Disciples: Timothy, Titus, Silas, Priscilla and Aquila
- Impact: Raised a second generation of leaders to carry the mission forward
- Reference: Acts 16:1–3; 2 Timothy 2:2

4. Defended the Faith Through Preaching and Debate

- Where: Synagogues, marketplaces, and cities like Athens (Mars Hill)
- Impact: Engaged diverse audiences—from Jews to philosophers—proving the gospel’s intellectual and spiritual credibility
- Reference: Acts 17:16–34; Acts 18:4

5. Wrote Foundational Letters of the New Testament

- **Letters Written During Journeys:** 1 & 2 Thessalonians, Galatians, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Romans
- **Impact:** Shaped Christian doctrine on grace, faith, salvation, and church life
- **Reference:** Embedded in journeys – Acts + Paul’s epistles

Changing of the Guard: Paul’s Ministry Team Shifts

- Paul and Barnabas split over John Mark (Acts 15:36–41). Barnabas took Mark; Paul chose Silas.
- Timothy joins Paul early in the second journey and becomes a key partner (Acts 16:1–3).
- **Luke joins during the second journey, evident from the “we” sections (starting in Acts 16:10)**

Conclusion: The “We” sections explained

The “we sections” in the Book of Acts are narrative passages where the author, traditionally believed to be Luke, shifts from third-person (“they”) to first-person plural (“we”). This suggests that Luke was personally present with Paul during these parts of the journey.

Key Points About the “We Sections”:

- What They Indicate:
Luke, the author of Acts, was a traveling companion of Paul during these times.
- Why It Matters:
These sections provide eyewitness accounts, enhancing the credibility and historical reliability of the narrative.

Main “We Sections” in Acts:

Passage	Journey/Event	Reference
Acts 16:10–17	Paul’s trip from Troas to Philippi (Second Journey)	First “we” section
Acts 20:5–15	Return to Macedonia and Asia (Third Journey)	Luke rejoins Paul
Acts 21:1–18	Journey to Jerusalem	Final trip to Jerusalem
Acts 27:1–28:16	Voyage to Rome (includes shipwreck)	Detailed sea journey

Examples from Scripture:

1. Acts 16:10 (NIV) –
“After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia...”
2. Acts 27:1 (NIV) –
“When it was decided that we would sail for Italy, Paul and some other prisoners were handed over...”

Why Luke May Have Used “We”:

- It reflects accurate historical recording.
- Possibly to mark his presence during critical events.
- Also used as a literary technique to draw readers into the action.