

Acts of the Apostles

Part 1 – He is WITH us

Acts 1.1-3

Heart of the series: capitalize on momentum from Harvey

- Ongoing inward transformation
- Ongoing outward ministry
 - They feed on one another – thus, momentum
 - None of it was or is possible without the Holy Spirit (and I don't want to go back)
 - We are more dependent than ever before
 - We are more outward focused than ever before
 - We believe God for bigger things than ever before
 - We see needs more than ever before
 - We pitch in / help / serve more than ever before

Jesus worked and taught – and He still is at work and teaching us. But how?

Teaching

- Rooted in Revelation (v.3)
 - Objective truths: Jesus suffered (died) and is alive – if we know nothing else, let us know this!
 - We have objective truth in the Scripture but knowing doesn't mean believing (Luke 24.25-27) – they saw Him and didn't know Him – our physical eyes and spiritual eyes are not always in sync
 - Time Factor: 40 Days – truth over time has a power to shape us
 - Pastoral application: don't ever give up on praying / sharing / modeling
 - If the Apostles were going to give their lives to this and for this, they needed to KNOW
 - Kingdom Story: a narrative about what the King was up to and how they could play a part
 - Not just looking backward but looking all around for the Kingdom
 - It's not of this world but is definitely invading the world
 - Kingdom sounds like – testimonies from last week, praise songs amid the flood, looking for ministry opportunities when you've lost everything
- Sensitive to the Spirit (v.2)
 - The Holy Spirit speaks to His people (John 16.13, 1 John 2.27, et al)
 - “God really spoke to me” or “God really convicted me”
 - Big truths and everyday life – eating, TV, etc.
 - Interactive side of relationship with Him – He lives in us and is WITH us so we should expect this kind of interaction

- We need both – otherwise we end up in legalism or compromise

Ministry

- By His Spirit – His presence brings His power to bear
 - May we never get so confident we miss the opportunity to be dependent
- Through His people – He uses all types
 - Women from Luke 24 – they were right and the men were wrong
 - Peter the Apostle – ultimate failure to spokesmen (John 21 – “feed my sheep!”)
 - If you don’t think you’re qualified, you’re listening to someone other than Jesus
 - KHOU blindfold lady hugging people at HEB
 - God looked AT US, hugged us, then sent us out as His ambassadors

Questions for Discussion

1. What has been the single most transformational experience in your spiritual life? Who was involved? What changed immediately? What change(s) happened over time?
2. Reread the Emmaus story in Luke 24.13-35. In the sermon, we stated that our physical eyes and our spiritual eyes don’t always see the same thing. How did they differ in this story? What is an example from your life where this happened?
3. In Luke 24, Jesus used “Moses and all the Prophets” to show that He was the center of it all. Read John 5.39. How do these two verses coalesce? What are examples from the Old Testament where you can “see” Jesus?
4. Because we believe that the Spirit lives inside us as believers, we also believe that He speaks to us and what He say is always in line with the Scriptures. How has God spoken to you or convicted you before? What was the context? What happened as a result?
5. In the final part of the sermon, we argued that everyone who is a follower of Jesus is useful to Him in ministry of some sort. How has that proven true in your life? What role in ministry might He be asking you to play next? What are the hang-ups or hurdles that Satan might use to keep you from fulfilling that ministry?