

Epic Church Week 1

2/4/18

I. The Church in the book of Acts was Epic.

A. Epic does not necessarily mean gigantic.

1. Epic: A long narrative poem or story centered around a hero, with tales of great achievements and events

2. Book of Acts is the story of the early Christian church, centered around Jesus Christ and full of stories of miracles, church structure, missionary journeys and great acts by these new believers.

B. Book of Acts.

1. Written by Luke, a physician. And he is the only Gentile author in the entire bible.

II. The Church of Acts

1. Within one generation, this group of 120 grew to tens of thousands and spread across the Roman Empire.

2. Within 100 years, there was a Christian church in every major city of the world.

3. Within 300 years, Christianity had become the major religion of the entire world.

III. 3 things the church of Acts had:

A. Resurrected Christ

1. Had many “convincing proofs” Acts 1:1-3

2. Empty tomb, message of the angels, 500 eye witnesses, wounds on His body, ate real food (He was not a ghost), ascended into heaven and the dramatic change in the disciples lives.

B. Reenergized Community

1. They were told to wait until they received a special power.

2. Once the Holy Spirit came, they turned from frightened followers of Christ to bold, impassioned believers.

C. Royal Commission

1. They heard the “last words” of Jesus before He ascended into heaven and they took it seriously. They began to go into all the world.

AND GOD ADDED TO THE CHURCH DAILY!

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you agree that the modern church should have the same message, the same power and the same results of the New Testament Church? Why doesn't it?

2. Why is it significant the Book of Acts was written by a Gentile? What does this reveal about Jesus?

3. Discuss the incredible speed and growth of the early church. What was the catalyst? What gave them the ability to grow without good transportation and communication?

4. Would you be able to defend the resurrection of Jesus Christ to a skeptic or an unbeliever? Google “Proof of the resurrection” and read some of the articles. Commit some of these points to memory.

5. How convinced are you of the resurrection?

6. Have you been baptized with the Holy Spirit? Discuss your thoughts, ideas, or hesitations about this gift. Would you like to be part of a DNA group specifically geared to receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

7. What are you doing to fulfill the Great Commission? Does everyone have to travel to another country? How can you fulfill the Great Commission right here in your community?