

Sermon Discussion Guide

01.29.23 Message | Tyler Myers | Acts 1:1-11

Key Scriptures:

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

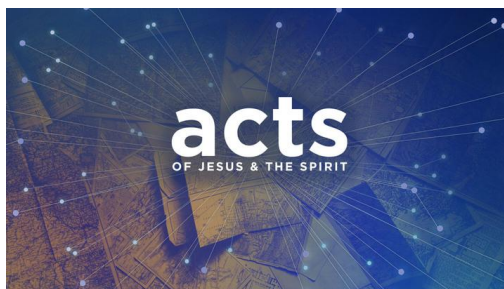
- Acts 1:1-11

Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen." He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

- Acts 28:28-31

Message Highlights:

- *Eternity Now* is not a series that is done, but rather a lifestyle to be cultivated.
- The book of Acts describes stories from the early church that reflect the Kingdom of God.
- The Kingdom of God is an ongoing story that we, as humans, are an integral part of.
- As Christians, it is our duty to keep our gaze on Jesus and further the mission and gospel of Jesus until he returns.



Conversation Starter:

Recall the first time that you either heard the gospel message or encountered God in a meaningful way. Who shared the good news with you? Looking back, how do you see those who invited you to hear the gospel remain faithful to God's calling on their life?

Discuss the Message:

1. How does Jesus model relationship-building and ministering to others in Acts 28:28-31?
 - a. Jesus' hospitality in this chapter is a seemingly simple act, yet it is esteemed and considered an ideal for the church today. How can you embrace simplicity as you seek to follow Jesus and further his Church?
 - b. What would you consider your spiritual gifts, and how can you leverage them in order to serve others? If you're unsure of your spiritual giftings, ask your family or small group what strengths they notice in you.
2. At the end of Acts 1:1-11, the disciples are left with the charge to wait on the Holy Spirit to come. Read verses 12-14; how were the apostles waiting well in this instance?
 - a. What comes to mind when you hear the word 'waiting'?
 - b. What differences do you notice when you abide in the Lord while waiting rather than trying to wait by your own strength?
 - c. What has God taught you during seasons of waiting in your own life?
3. In the *Eternity Now* series, we explored the disciplines of being in the Word, practicing prayer, accountability and generosity. Which of these four disciplines do you feel God calling you deeper in this year, and how so?
 - a. As we press on in this new year, how can you hold loosely to your plans in a way that gives God the space to lead you to wherever the "ends of the earth" might be for you?

Pray:

Heavenly Father, we anticipate that you will do a mighty work in each of us as we study and seek to live by what you teach us in Acts. We ask that you would stir within us this week and present us opportunities to boldly share your gospel. We praise you for the confidence you give us to wait on you and walk faithfully each day. Thank you for the blessing that your son Jesus is to Madison Park Church, our city and our world. Amen.