

**The Acts of the Apostles**

The Journey – 2020  
Jim Hoffman

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Sanctity of Life Sunday 2020



FOR YOU CREATED MY INMOST BEING

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**The Acts of the Apostles**

• John 16:5 “But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and not one of you is asking where I am going. 6 Instead, you grieve because of what I’ve told you. 7 But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God’s righteousness, and of the coming judgment. 9 The world’s sin is that it refuses to believe in me. 10 Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. 11 Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged. NLT

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The Acts of the Apostles

- The book we call **The Acts of the Apostles** could have just as easily been called **The Acts of the Holy Spirit**, or **The Acts of Jesus**, or even the **The Acts of the Father**.
- “The Acts **of** the Lord Jesus **through** his people **by** the Holy Spirit **for** the accomplishment of the father’s purposes.” Alan Thompson

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The Acts of the Apostles

Acts 1:1 In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about **everything Jesus began to do and teach** <sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions **through the Holy Spirit**. <sup>3</sup> During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God. NLT

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The Acts of the Apostles

- The first book? The first account turns out to be the Gospel of Luke.
- Theophilus? The name means “lover of God” and was the same person Luke’s gospel was written for.
- Luke 1:1 **Many people have set out to write accounts** about the events that have been fulfilled among us. <sup>2</sup> They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples. <sup>3</sup> Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account for you, most honorable Theophilus, <sup>4</sup> so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught. NLT

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The Acts of the Apostles

- Luke uses the phrase, “all that Jesus **began to do and teach**”.
- All that Jesus “began” to do and teach? What does that mean?
- When Jesus was on the cross, didn’t we hear Him say, “It is finished”? And don’t we trust solely in the work of Christ on the cross for salvation?

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The Acts of the Apostles

- We have to separate what Jesus did on the cross to propitiate our sin debt from all that Jesus did, and is doing, after his death and resurrection.
- It is accurate to say that the sacrifice of Jesus was totally sufficient to save us from the power and penalty of our sins.
- In fact, it is sin to suggest that we need more than the blood of Christ to save us – yet Luke says, “began”.

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The Acts of the Apostles

- While the penalty for our sins has been paid in full and is a finished work, the work of Jesus continues.
- Among the post-resurrection words of Jesus are ....  
Matt 28:19 “Therefore, **go and make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: **I am with you always**, even to the end of the age.”  
NLT

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The Acts of the Apostles

**How would we know if we are fulfilling the great commission to go, and make disciples?**

**We would see disciples. 😊**

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The Acts of the Apostles

**How can you tell if someone who professes faith in Christ is a disciple?**

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The Acts of the Apostles

- Matt 7:21 "Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. 22 On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' 23 But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.' NLT
- The proof of faith is not to be found in externals alone, but in what is in the heart.

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The Acts of the Apostles

- We become “known” as disciples of Christ by where our affections lie.
- Said another way, what we love exposes the thoughts and intents of our hearts.
- Agape love is a first and foremost a verb – none of us execute this perfectly, but true believers execute it consistently and broadly.

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The Acts of the Apostles

- John 13:34 “So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. 35 **Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.**” NLT
- More than tongues, more than other gifts, the love of Christ in our lives ought to be the supreme manifestation that we have been born again and are following him.

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The Acts of the Apostles

- “During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God”
- After his resurrection Jesus appeared to the “11” for the purpose of proving that he was actually alive and for teaching them more about the Kingdom of God.

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The Acts of the Apostles

- There is a huge difference between the Peter who denied Jesus on the night of his arrest and the Peter we see in the book of Acts.
- He is still quick to speak and a little rough at times, but he is light years more mature in his faith.
- This is due, in part at least, to the time Jesus spent with the "11" after his resurrection and before his ascension **AND** to the coming of the Holy Spirit.

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The Acts of the Apostles

Acts 4:13 The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus. NLT

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The Acts of the Apostles

Acts 1:4 Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. 5 John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be **baptized with the Holy Spirit.**" 6 So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?" 7 He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. 8 **But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**"

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The Acts of the Apostles

- The disciples wanted to know if Jesus was going to set up his kingdom now that he had conquered death.
- Jesus' answer was clear – 1) the time for the kingdom to come is at the discretion of the Father and 2) the disciples focus was to be on telling the world about him.
- Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. **And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere**—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

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The Acts of the Apostles

- Taking the gospel to “the ends of the earth” was a task that is beyond the abilities of men to accomplish.
- Fortunately, with the coming of the Holy Spirit also came supernatural power to do exactly what Jesus commanded.
- John 14:12 “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, **and even greater works**, because I am going to be with the Father.” NLT

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The Acts of the Apostles

- When we grew up in America there was a sort of cultural Christianity.
- There was a broad-based understanding that God existed, that his commandments mattered, and that sin was real.
- Today, the more distinctly Christian we are the more we will be labeled as radicals who cannot be trusted.

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- The disciples were facing an uphill battle rolling out a message that had never been heard before.
- So, not only was it new, but it was a threat to all other religions of the day.
- A threat to Judaism, and as we see in Acts – and a threat to the cults like the one that worshipped Diana in Ephesus found in Acts 19.

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- One of the reasons why a study of this book of the bible is so relevant today is because we live in a post-Christian culture and have a radical message.
- A major problem is that few see themselves as “lost”.
- So why would I want to become a slave to this “Jesus person”, restrict my behaviors, and invest time in his work?

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### The Acts of the Apostles



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The Acts of the Apostles

- Acts 1:9 After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him.
- This is the ascension of Jesus Christ and it comes with a promise that he would come again.
- Acts 1:11 “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven **in the same way you saw him go!**” NLT

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The Acts of the Apostles

- Acts 1:12 Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile. 13 When they arrived, they went to the upstairs room of the house where they were staying. Here are the names of those who were present: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon (the zealot), and Judas (son of James). 14 They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus. 15 During this time, when about 120 believers were together in one place, Peter stood up and addressed them. 16 “Brothers,” he said, “the Scriptures had to be fulfilled concerning Judas, who guided those who arrested Jesus. This was predicted long ago by the Holy Spirit, speaking through King David. 17 Judas was one of us and shared in the ministry with us.”

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The Acts of the Apostles

- Acts 1:18 (Judas had bought a field with the money he received for his treachery. Falling headfirst there, his body split open, spilling out all his intestines. 19 The news of his death spread to all the people of Jerusalem, and they gave the place the Aramaic name Akeldama, which means “Field of Blood.”) 20 Peter continued, “This was written in the book of Psalms, where it says, ‘Let his home become desolate, with no one living in it.’ It also says, ‘Let someone else take his position.’ 21 “So now we must choose a replacement for Judas from among the men who were with us the entire time we were traveling with the Lord Jesus—

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The Acts of the Apostles

• Acts 1:22 from the time he was baptized by John until the day he was taken from us. Whoever is chosen will join us as a witness of Jesus' resurrection." 23 So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. 24 Then they all prayed, "O Lord, you know every heart. Show us which of these men you have chosen 25 as an apostle to replace Judas in this ministry, for he has deserted us and gone where he belongs." 26 Then they cast lots, and Matthias was selected to become an apostle with the other eleven. NLT

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The Acts of the Apostles

- There may be a bit of humor here – "O Lord, you know every heart. Show us which of **these men** you have chosen".
- They use the OT "lot" to discern the will of God, and Matthias is chosen, but what about Paul? (going forward the "lot" is not used again.
- Does Paul become Apostle #13, or is Paul the one God had in mind from the start? (after Acts 1, we do not see Matthias in the bible)

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The Acts of the Apostles

Holy Spirit

Baptism

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Salvation ■ Holy Spirit Baptism ■ Divine Healing ■ Second Coming

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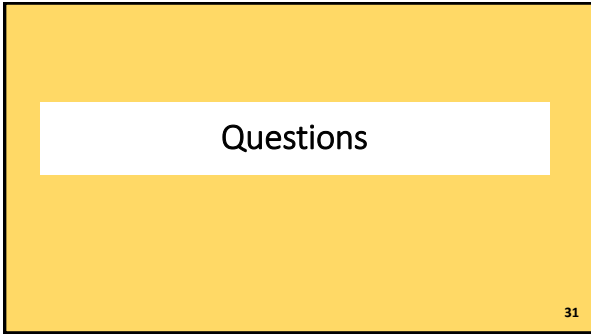
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