

Acts of the Apostles

(Luke's Story of Continued)

If you read Luke chapter 24 and follow it with Acts chapter 1 you will see that the book of Acts is clearly meant to be a sequel to Luke's Gospel. If you look at the beginning of both books you will also notice that they are both addressed to Theophilus (Luke 1:3; Acts 1:1).

Luke wants us to see that the ministry of Jesus was carried out by his body, the church, through the power of the Holy Spirit, so we will see the Holy Spirit very active throughout Acts. While the full title is *Acts of the Apostles*, some have suggested it might be better titled *Acts of the Holy Spirit*.

Luke shows us how the message of the Kingdom of God was proclaimed throughout the Roman world, but more than this, Luke demonstrates to us how the first disciples of Jesus lived the kingdom life in the present while they waited for the return of the Lord. We can see this in Acts 2.

All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need (Acts 2:44-45)¹.

In many ways this mirrors the message that John the Baptist preached as he prepared people for the coming Messiah and his kingdom. John called on those who were in positions of power to not exploit others and called on those with abundance to share (Luke 3:11-14).

Acts makes a geographical shift from Jerusalem to Rome, but it also makes a cultural shift from Jews to gentiles. As the Gospel becomes physically and culturally global the church experienced some growing pains. In Acts 15 we see the apostles wrestle with the question of gentile believers. Do they have to become Jewish to be disciples of Jesus?

To get the most out of this study I encourage you to read the weekly texts and answer the questions that go with them. The sermon on Sunday will cover this text and provide some applications. Meeting with a small group afterwards can further help you to immerse yourself in the book so that it may shape your life. We can learn from these early Christians how we too might live the kingdom life while we wait for the return of the king.

¹ All scriptures are from the NIV

September 2-8

Acts 1-2

What is this text telling us? When you read it, what do your five senses detect? Where are these things happening? What point might Luke be trying to make by telling us these things?

Now that you have heard what the text is saying, what do you hear it saying to you? How might God be speaking to you in this text?

September 9-15

Acts 3-4

What is this text telling us? When you read it, what do your five senses detect? Where are these things happening? What point might Luke be trying to make by telling us these things?

Now that you have heard what the text is saying, what do you hear it saying to you? How might God be speaking to you in this text?

September 16-22

Acts 5:1-6:7

What is this text telling us? When you read it, what do your five senses detect? Where are these things happening? What point might Luke be trying to make by telling us these things?

Now that you have heard what the text is saying, what do you hear it saying to you? How might God be speaking to you in this text?

September 23-29

Acts 6:8-8:3

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September 30-October 6

Acts 8:4-9:31

What is this text telling us? When you read it, what do your five senses detect? Where are these things happening? What point might Luke be trying to make by telling us these things?

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October 7-13
Acts 9:32-10:48

What is this text telling us? When you read it, what do your five senses detect? Where are these things happening? What point might Luke be trying to make by telling us these things?

Now that you have heard what the text is saying, what do you hear it saying to you? How might God be speaking to you in this text?

October 14-20

Acts 11-12

What is this text telling us? When you read it, what do your five senses detect? Where are these things happening? What point might Luke be trying to make by telling us these things?

Now that you have heard what the text is saying, what do you hear it saying to you? How might God be speaking to you in this text?

October 21-27

Acts 13-14

What is this text telling us? When you read it, what do your five senses detect? Where are these things happening? What point might Luke be trying to make by telling us these things?

Now that you have heard what the text is saying, what do you hear it saying to you? How might God be speaking to you in this text?

October 28-November 3

Acts 15:1-39

What is this text telling us? When you read it, what do your five senses detect? Where are these things happening? What point might Luke be trying to make by telling us these things?

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November 4-10

Acts 15:40-17:15

What is this text telling us? When you read it, what do your five senses detect? Where are these things happening? What point might Luke be trying to make by telling us these things?

Now that you have heard what the text is saying, what do you hear it saying to you? How might God be speaking to you in this text?

November 11-17

Acts 17:16-19:22

What is this text telling us? When you read it, what do your five senses detect? Where are these things happening? What point might Luke be trying to make by telling us these things?

Now that you have heard what the text is saying, what do you hear it saying to you? How might God be speaking to you in this text?

November 18-24

Acts 19:23-21:16

What is this text telling us? When you read it, what do your five senses detect? Where are these things happening? What point might Luke be trying to make by telling us these things?

Now that you have heard what the text is saying, what do you hear it saying to you? How might God be speaking to you in this text?

November 25-December 1

Acts 21:17-23:22

What is this text telling us? When you read it, what do your five senses detect? Where are these things happening? What point might Luke be trying to make by telling us these things?

Now that you have heard what the text is saying, what do you hear it saying to you? How might God be speaking to you in this text?

December 2-8
Acts 23:23-25:27

What is this text telling us? When you read it, what do your five senses detect? Where are these things happening? What point might Luke be trying to make by telling us these things?

Now that you have heard what the text is saying, what do you hear it saying to you? How might God be speaking to you in this text?

December 9-15

Acts 26-28

What is this text telling us? When you read it, what do your five senses detect? Where are these things happening? What point might Luke be trying to make by telling us these things?

Now that you have heard what the text is saying, what do you hear it saying to you? How might God be speaking to you in this text?

Acts 13:4-14:28 Paul's First Missionary Journey



Chart 18

Acts 15:40-19:22 Paul's Second Missionary Journey



Chart 19

Acts 18:23-21:17

Paul's Third Missionary Journey



Chart 20