

Small Group Guide

10/3/21

Acts 1:3-8 - Certainty, Dependence, and Power

Sermon Outline

The book of Acts:

↑	Jesus went up	Jesus ascended
↓	Holy Spirit came down	Spirit descended
→	Church sent out	Church commissioned

“And afterwards, when he had risen from the dead and appeared to them, and had taught them to read the prophecies in which all these things were foretold as coming to pass, and when they had seen him ascending into heaven, and had believed, and had received power sent by him upon them, and went to every race of men, they taught these things, and were called apostles.” - Justin Martyr, *First Apology* 50:12, c. AD 155

Result? God builds His Church.

1. Jesus gave His disciples absolute certainty by proof of His resurrection. (Acts 1:3)

*They saw Him. (Mt. 28:9-10, Mk. 16:6-7)

*They heard Him. (Jn. 20:15-17)

*They touched His scars. (Lk. 24:39, Jn. 20:27)

*They ate with Him. (Lk. 24:41-43, Jn. 21:12-13)

***They met with Him often. (Jn. 21:14, Acts 1:3)

*They watched Him perform miracles. (Jn. 21:6-8, Lk. 24:31, 36)

*****Is there spiritual certainty in your life concerning Jesus?**

2. Jesus ordered His disciples to practice spiritual dependence. (Acts 1:4-5)

*They must wait for the Spirit in the place God planned.

*The Spirit would fully identify them with Jesus.

*We need more than historical facts; we need spiritual power.

*****Does your life display spiritual dependence upon God and His promises?**

3. Jesus taught His disciples to avoid unnecessary distractions. (Acts 1:6-7)
- *They were distracted about the purpose of mission.
(They wanted physical restoration of Israel. He wants spiritual restoration of all peoples)
 - *They were distracted about the priority of mission.
(They wanted exact times and dates. He wanted them to take the Gospel everywhere.)

**The priority is not when He is coming - it is WHAT TO DO UNTIL HE COMES.
What to prioritize, what to engage in!**

*****Does your life prioritize God's purposes for you or your purposes for Him?**

4. Jesus promised His disciples supernatural power for His mission. (Acts 1:8)
- *Reminder about the Holy Spirit and the Christian:
 - * All believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit at new birth.
 - *Every believer needs to be continually empowered by the Spirit throughout the Christian life.
 - *The Three "Yous"
 - You before the power of the Spirit
 - You receiving the power of the Spirit
 - You living in the power of the Spirit
 - *Why? To actively engage in His mission as His witness!

Small Group Questions:

1. What spoke to you in the sermon?
2. What were the proofs Christ showed His people during the 40 days? Why is it important that Christianity is a historical faith? How are the historical facts of Jesus' life and resurrection a game changer?
3. Why did Jesus tell His disciples to not depart Jerusalem? Why Jerusalem? What was the importance and value of waiting?
4. What does it mean to be baptized with the Holy Spirit? Why do we sometimes consciously or unconsciously downplay the Spirit's role in our lives?

5. In verses 6-7, where was the disciples' attention wrongly placed? Where did Jesus redirect their attention? In what ways are we distracted like the disciples were?
6. What are the three "you"s in Acts 1:8? Why is spiritual dependence necessary for faithfulness in the Christian life?
7. What is the mission of the church? Where are we to carry out this mission? How does Acts 1:8 set the direction for the rest of the book?

Next week's passage: Acts 1:9-11 — Read and discuss if you have time.