

Small Group Outline/Questions
9/26/21

Acts- Part 2
Introduction

Acts 1:1-3
Luke 24:44-53

Recap:
Purpose- Certainty
Finished/Unfinished Work

Outline:

What made them courageous?

By what means does the Lord continue His redemptive plan?

What are some characteristics of the early church in regards to their growth?

A. What made these men courageous?

1. The reality of the resurrection
2. The promise of the Holy Spirit
3. The understand of the OT and God's redemptive plan
 - understood big picture
 - saw the plan of redemption in motion
 - grasp the reality of redemptive history
 - Jesus was the fulfillment of the OT**

Luke 9:44-45

Luke 18:31-34

They couldn't connect Jesus as the promised One.

- their traditional Judaism clouded their ability to see and understand
- They legitimately struggled understand it
- we may see it easily, but they didn't in their time**

Then something incredible happened after the resurrection:
Road to Emmaus

Luke 24:13-27
Luke 24:44-49

He opened their minds to understand...

-It was an act of God..

-God reveals Himself to us

-when we read... we must ask God to open our minds

v.49- stay put until you are clothed with power

-the task was too big for them to do it on their own...

But I want you to catch this..

What emboldened them?

1. The reality of the resurrection

2. The coming of the HS

3. The understanding of the OT

-a sense that Jesus was the fulfillment of the OT

Specifically, God's redemptive plan was right on schedule.

-they grasped what we've been looking at over the last several months

-Seeing God's redemptive plan unfold..

Watch what I mean by this..

Flip to Acts, and you will notice right away the apostles quoting the OT. (1,2,4)

They were connecting Christ and the OT..

-on task and continuing God's plan

-they were set free from doubts.

Acts 1:16

Acts 1:20

Acts 2:14-16

Acts 2:25

Not only were they connecting Jesus to the OT, but everything.

-Jesus, Judas, Pentecost, the coming of the HS

Acts 4:8-11

Acts 4:23-25

Acts 7- Stephen

Acts 13- Paul

They saw it... and it empowered them..

They grasped it was God's plan of redemption unfolding and staying right on track.

And this should excite us like it did for them..

*We get excited when we look at the promises of the OT.

**We get excited when we look at the fulfillment of the promises in the Gospels...

***We should get excited when we read the book of Acts because it's the story that is still going on which we are a part of..

How great is it to understand the Scriptures this way?

- to be able to see God's redemptive plan
- how everything works out according to His will and plan?
- nothing messes it up...

So what we will see is this:

Up- Jesus ascends

Down- The Spirit descends

Out- the apostles begin to preach the gospel

Then the apostles will eventually give way to the church... and the church continues to preach the gospel.

Jesus → Apostles → Church

Apostles took care of the gospel... and preached it faithfully
Why? They saw their place in God's plan of redemption

But they eventually died off... and left this great gospel with the Church.. (me and you)

Ephesians 2:18-22

Now we are the caretakers of this gospel message...

- we protect it
- we preach it
- we trust it

B. By what means does the Lord continue His redemptive plan?

*the faithful preaching of the gospel

You see the church just explode by the 1,000s

C. What are the characteristics of the early church in regards to their growth?

- 1. Commitment to a transcendent message**
- 2. Understood the Church was a regenerate fellowship**
- 3. Faithful perseverance**
- 4. Evident Purity**
- 5. Qualified Leadership**

Questions:

1. What spoke to you in the sermon?
2. What was it that gave the apostles boldness?
(reality of resurrecting, the coming of the HS, understanding of the OT)
3. How does understanding that Jesus is the fulfillment of the OT help strengthen your faith?
4. How does seeing the Bible as one story help you?
5. Jesus told the apostles to wait until they received the Spirit. This means that the task they had was impossible for them to do without the power of the Spirit. Have you ever tried to follow the Lord without the power of the Spirit? Are you now trying to do things without the power of the Spirit?
6. Read Galatians 5:16-24. How do we walk in the power of the Spirit?
7. By what means does the Lord continue His redemptive plan? (Preaching of the gospel)
8. Can someone come to faith without hearing the gospel? Are you now sharing the gospel with anyone? Who is someone you need to cultivate a relationship with in order to share the gospel with them?
9. Does it encourage you to be able to see God's plan working out just the way He had planned? How? Why? (Make it personal here) (he has a plan for each of our lives)

Next weeks passage:

Acts 1:4-8- Read and discuss if you have time